



ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY AND MONITORING REPORT for Fiscal Year 2005



Medford District

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Cover Photo: *A wildlife biologist measures the forearm of a bat to help determine its species as part of ongoing statewide research on bat populations..*

Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report

for Fiscal Year 2005

Ambedkar Pratishthan

Annual Report

2005-2006

for the year 2005-2006

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management for the period of October 2004 through September 2005. The program summary is designed to report to the public, local, state and federal agencies a broad overview of activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2005. This report addresses the accomplishments for the Medford District in such areas as watershed analysis, Jobs-in-the-Woods, forestry, recreation and other programs. Included in the Annual Program Summary is the Monitoring Report for the Medford District.

In April 1994 the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl was signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. The RMP/ROD was approved in April 1995, and adopted and incorporated the Standards and guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan in the form of Management Actions/Directions.

Both the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) and the Resource Management Plan (RMP) embrace the concepts of ecosystem management in a broader perspective than had been traditional in the past. Land use allocations covering all federal lands within the range of the spotted owl were established in the NFP. Analyses such as watershed analyses and late-successional reserve assessments are conducted at broader scale and involve landowners in addition to BLM. Requirements to conduct standardized surveys or inventories for special status species have been developed for implementation at the regional level.

Implementation of the NFP began in April 1994 with the signing of the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision. Subsequently, with the signing of the RMP Record of Decision in April 1995, the Medford District began implementation of the RMP which incorporates all aspects of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Medford District administers approximately 859,000 acres located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties. Under the NFP and RMP/ROD, management of these lands are included in three primary Land Use Allocations: the Matrix, where the majority of commodity production will occur; Late-Successional Reserves, where providing habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species is emphasized; and Riparian Reserves, where maintenance of water quality and the aquatic ecosystem is emphasized. The RMP established objectives for management of 17 resource programs occurring on the District. Not all land use allocations and resource programs are discussed individually in a detailed manner in the APS because of the overlap of programs and projects. Likewise, a detailed background of the various land use allocations or resource programs is not included in the APS to keep this document reasonably concise. Complete information can be found in RMP/ROD and supporting Environmental Impact Statement, both of which are available at the District Office.

Medford RMP Planning Area, Summary of Resource Management Actions, Directions, and Accomplishments

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments or Program Status	Cumulative Practices, since RMP approval	Projected Decadal Practices
Forest and Timber Resources				
Regeneration harvest (acres offered)	Acres	368	4,505	10,400
Commercial thinning/density management/ uneven age harvest (acres offered) (HLB)	Acres	8,053	60,554	44,900
Salvage (acres offered) (Reserves)	Acres	0	2,299	N/A
Timber volume offered (HLB)	MM board feet/ MM cubic feet	43.1/7.4	442.7/75.2	571/96.9
Timber volume offered (reserves)	MM board feet/ MM cubic feet	1.5/0.26	30.7 / 5.3	N/A
Pre-commercial thinning (HLB)	Acres	1090	33,815	78,000
Pre-commercial thinning (Reserves)	Acres	28	511	N/A
Brushfield/hardwood conversion	Acres	0	0	N/A
Site preparation (prescribed fire)	Acres	0	50,261*	24,000**
Site preparation - other (specify)	Acres	0	---	N/A
Fuels Treatment Acres (prescribed fire)	Acres	6,083	56,344*	24,000**
Fuels Treatment Acres (mechanical and other methods)	Acres	10,024	67,870	N/A
Planting - regular stock	Acres	583	25,063	2,700
Planting – genetically selected	Acres	0	4,412	10,300
Fertilization	Acres	0	2,222	57,000
Pruning	Acres	380	7,044	18,600

* Cumulative acres for Site Prep burning and Fuel Treatment burning have been combined.

**Decadal estimates for Site Prep burning and Fuel Treatment burning have been combined.

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments or Program Status	Cumulative Practices, since RMP approval	Projected Decadal Practices
Noxious Weeds				
Noxious weeds chemical control	acres	4,130	6,895	N/A
Noxious weeds, by other control methods	acres	732	11,617	N/A
Rangeland Resources				
Livestock grazing permits or leases	Annual leases/10 yr renewals	30	N / A	N/A
Animal Unit Months (actual)		10,549	N / A	N/A
Livestock fences constructed or maintained	Units / miles	33 /15	49 / 24	N/A
Realty Actions				
Realty, land sales	Actions/acres	20	1 / 120	N/A
Realty, land purchase	Actions/acres	0	3 / 314	N/A
Realty, land exchanges	Actions/acres acquired/ acres disposed	0	3 / 7657 / 3306	N/A
Realty, R&PP leases/patents	Actions/Acres	0	1	N/A
Realty, road easements acquired for public/ agency use	Actions	7	77	N/A
Realty, road rights-of-way granted	Actions	65	380	N/A
Realty, utility rights-of-way granted	Actions	16	92	N/A
Realty, utility rights-of-way granted (communication sites)	Actions	12	18	N/A
Special Use Permits	Actions	18	58	N/A
Realty, withdrawals completed	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Realty, withdrawals revoked	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Energy and Minerals Actions				
Mineral/energy, total oil and gas leases	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral/energy, total other leases	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mining plans approved	Actions/acres	0	1	N/A
Mining claims patented	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral materials sites opened	Actions/acres	0	1	N/A
Mineral material sites closed	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles				
Maintained off-highway vehicle trails	Number/miles	2/105	11 / 1,328	N/A
Maintained hiking trails	Number/miles	8 /114	67 / 744	N/A
Recreation sites maintained	Number/acres	8 /200	54/ 2,097	N/A
Cultural Resources				
Cultural resource inventories	Sites/acres	26 / 2,477	475 / 60,484	N/A
Cultural/historic sites nominated	Sites/acres	0 / 0	21 / 608	N/A
Hazardous Materials				
Hazardous material sites, identified	Sites	20	224	N/A
Hazardous material sites, remediated	Sites	8	122	N/A

BUDGET

The Medford District receives its annual operating budget from congressionally appropriated funds and other non-appropriated revenue sources. All BLM appropriated funds are identified in the Interior Appropriations and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill or emergency supplemental appropriations. In fiscal year 2005, the Medford District received a total of \$20,026,000 in Oregon and California (O&C) Land Grant appropriations, \$2,200,000 in Management of Lands & Resources (MLR) appropriations, and \$21,473,000 in special appropriations, fire related appropriations and non-appropriated funds. Special appropriations include those appropriation excluding MLR and O&C appropriations and include emergency fire rehabilitation, fuels treatment and hazard reduction, emergency flood repair, and land acquisition funds. Non-appropriated sources include funding from forest ecosystem health and recovery funds, timber sale pipeline restoration funds, road use fee collections, recreation fee demonstration collections, reimbursements for work performed for other agencies, trust funds, appropriated funds transferred to BLM from other agencies, and other miscellaneous collection accounts. The total available monetary resources in fiscal year 2005 to the Medford District were \$43,699,000.

Appropriation	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
Oregon and California Land Grant	19,532,000	21,532,000	22,650,000	21,673,000	22,499,000	20,026,000
Management of Lands & Resources	1,227,000	1,867,000	2,714,000	2,885,000	3,206,000	2,200,000
Special Appropriation and Other Non-appropriated Funds	12,043,000	11,989,000	19,294,000	26,940,000	27,047,000	21,473,000
Total	32,802,000	35,388,000	44,658,000	51,498,000	52,752,000	43,699,000

Opened in the fall of 2005, the Grants Pass Interagency Office is the home to BLM Medford District's Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas as well as part of the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest.



LAND USE ALLOCATIONS

Lands administered by the BLM will be managed to maintain or restore healthy, functioning ecosystems from which a sustainable production of natural resources can be provided. Ecosystem management involves the use of ecological, economic, social, and managerial principles to achieve healthy and sustainable natural systems.

The building blocks for this strategy are composed of several major land use allocations: riparian reserves; late-successional reserves; adaptive management areas; matrix, which includes general forest management areas and connectivity/diversity blocks; and a variety of special purpose management areas such as recreation sites, wild and scenic rivers, and visual resource management areas.

The Medford District has the following major land allocations:*

Congressional Reserves	14,267
Late-Successional Reserves	178,467
Late-Successional Reserve within AMA	32,937
Marbled Murrelet Reserve	3,478
District Defined Reserves	1,290
Connectivity/Diversity Blocks	27,237
Applegate Adaptive Management Area	113,912
Reserved Habitat Area	16,732
General Forest Management Area	<u>470,776</u>
Total	859,096

*Allocations do not have any overlapping designations. There are approximately 369,200 acres of riparian reserves.

Late Successional Reserves

Late successional reserves (LSRs) are areas established by the NFP and the Medford District RMP to maintain functional interactive late successional and old growth forest ecosystems. They are designed to serve as habitat for late-successional and old growth related species including the northern spotted owl.

The Medford District contains portions of five late successional reserves designated in the Resource Management Plan: Elk Creek, Azalea, Galice Block, Munger Butte, and Jenny Creek.

All reserve areas have had assessments completed on them.

APPLEGATE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

Reviews of other AMAs (and AMAs in general) confirm that one does not need an AMA to do adaptive management. However, the Applegate AMA continues to serve as a focal area to test involvement with the community and to test innovations developed in partnership and collaborative settings. The Medford District BLM continues to work cooperatively with the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest and the Applegate community in implementing the goals and objectives of the Applegate AMA, especially goals involving community innovations regarding fuels reduction/fire restoration and small diameter/biomass.

Work continues with the Applegate Fuels Demonstration Project, a collaborative study to develop and test several approaches to fuels reduction in an ecological context. This is a joint project with the Rogue River Siskiyou NF, local environmental organizations, the Applegate Partnership/Applegate River Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, and the Indigenous People's Restoration Network. Plots have been established, data has been collected, and implementation will likely occur in 2007. Upon completion of the treatments, post operations data collection and analysis will begin. Monitoring has been collaboratively developed to measure impacts to soils, vegetation, wildfire behavior, and, potentially, some selected small animals and insects.

Implementation is planned for 2006-2007 at the Neighbors "Backyard" project depending on successful funding on a stewardship contract. The project consists of a cooperative experiment by a group of landowners adjacent to a landlocked BLM parcel (60 acres) to collaboratively design a treatment proposal with the BLM and then implement the forest health treatments. The project may also yield information on the amount of forest product that should logically be planned for in the wildland urban interface (called rural interface zone in the forest plan).

An effort by The Nature Conservancy, the Applegate Partnership, the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF and the Medford District—the Applegate Fire Learning Network—is attempting to collaborate on desired conditions and landscape level implementation strategies for fire restoration and fuels reduction. This effort is just underway and is expanding to include a host of local communities and organizations within the AMA.

The Applegate Partnership is heading up an effort to study the feasibility of a biomass facility in the Applegate Valley. This collaborative project involves the Rogue River Siskiyou NF and Medford District BLM, as well. Both agencies, local environmental groups, the Nature Conservancy, industry, and the Applegate Partnership are also involved in developing a strategy for a consistent supply of small diameter/biomass material (referred to as the Knitting Circle).

A number of other small studies and monitoring efforts are underway to adaptively address the questions on sustainability of current management approaches.

AQUATIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) was developed to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands. The strategy is to protect salmon and steelhead habitat on federal lands managed by the BLM. This conservation strategy employs several tactics to approach the goal of maintaining the “natural” disturbance regime. The ACS strives to maintain and restore ecosystem health at watershed and landscape scales to protect habitat for fish and other riparian-dependent species and resources and to restore currently degraded habitat.

Silvicultural practices have been implemented within riparian reserves to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. These silvicultural practices include tree planting, precommercial thinning, and density management thinning.

Watershed analysis is required by the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) Record of Decision. Watershed analysis includes:

- Analysis of the at-risk fish species and stocks, their presence, habitat conditions and restoration needs;
- Description of the landscape over time, including the impacts of humans, their role in shaping the landscape, and the effects of fire;
- Distribution and abundance of species and populations throughout the watershed; and
- Characteristics of the geologic and hydrologic conditions.

This information was obtained from a variety of sources, including field inventory and observation, history books, agency records, and old maps and survey records.

A supplemental environmental impact statement has been written to clarify the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The intent is to clarify the wording in the NWFP Record of Decision to better convey the intent of the scientists who originally framed the ACS. The Final EIS was completed in October of 2003 and a Record of Decision completed in March of 2004.



Two BLM employees prepare to check the condition of Galice Creek. A restoration project placed boulders in the creek to slow the water, create pools for fish and generally improve the condition of the creek.

Watershed Council Coordination

The District coordinates and offers assistance to a number of watershed associations. This provides an excellent forum for exchange of ideas, partnering, education and promoting watershed-wide restoration. The District is active with approximately 14 watershed associations.

AIR QUALITY

All prescribed fire activities conformed to the Oregon Smoke Management and Visibility Protection Plans. Air Quality considerations in prescribed burn plans include burning when good smoke mixing and dispersal exists, and prompt mop-up of burned units to reduce residual smoke. Qualitative and some quantitative monitoring occurred during prescribed burning episodes during 2005.

WATER AND SOIL QUALITY

Water Quality Limited—303(d) Streams

Approximately 249 stream miles included on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) 2002 Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waterbodies cross BLM-administered land in the Medford District. These streams are primarily listed as water quality limited due to temperature, but some stream segments are listed for additional reasons such as dissolved oxygen, biological criteria, fecal coliform, e-coli, and sedimentation. These stream segments are evaluated as part of the watershed analysis process. The Medford District is working cooperatively with the Oregon DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) for 303(d) listed streams on BLM-administered lands. Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRPs) for federal lands are prepared by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service and incorporated in DEQ's WQMPs. Seven WQRPs have been completed for the Medford District and approved by DEQ: Sucker-Grayback Creek (1999), Grave Creek (2001), Lower Sucker Creek (2002), West Fork Cow Creek (2004), Middle Cow Creek (2004), Upper Cow Creek (2004), and Applegate Subbasin (2005).

Monitoring

Riparian assessments for functioning condition status were conducted on 27 stream miles in FY 2005. These stream miles plus an additional 18 stream miles were surveyed for stream and channel characteristics. This information is being used for project planning and the hydrography theme update. Summer stream temperature was monitored using recording instruments at 162 sites; streamflow, turbidity, and precipitation were measured at 78, 186, and 9 sites respectively; and channel cross sections were surveyed at 10 sites.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat work generally occurs through implementation of other projects, such as timber sales, fuels treatments or silviculture projects. Wildlife biologists in each of Medford's four resource areas—Ashland, Butte Falls, Glendale and Grants Pass—review those projects through interdisciplinary team processes. Biologists prioritize surveys for species and habitats to evaluate what species might occur in or adjacent to the project areas, conduct appropriate surveys through contracts or in-house personnel, analyze literature and talk with species experts to determine potential effects of proposed projects. Through the interdisciplinary compromise process, biologists offer recommendations to managers to reduce impacts, minimize effects on species during sensitive periods (generally the reproductive period). When opportunities and funding allow, they also offer suggestions that may improve habitat for key species or restore habitat in the project area.

Objectives of the land use allocations delineated in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) dictate the type and degree of wildlife conservation or management. Most timber harvest volume is planned in the RMP to come from matrix lands, which includes General Forest Management Areas (GFMA), Adaptive Management Areas (AMA) and Connectivity Blocks. Major habitat components are retained in timber projects through land use allocation, specific formulas for green tree retention, snag retention and recruitment, and management of coarse woody debris (CWD). These formulas were designed in the NWFP to meet the needs of most priority wildlife species found in the District.

In 2005, the Medford Wildlife program provided information in response to several wildlife related lawsuits, including cases on northern spotted owl critical habitat and the Survey and Manage program.

Wildlife biologists also began providing information on key wildlife sites such as bald eagle nests and big game areas for incorporation into the Western Oregon Planning Revision (WOPR). This is a settlement-driven planning revision that will revise the land use plans of the six Western Oregon Districts managed under the O&C Act. The WOPR will re-evaluate the following standards and may result in decisions different from those listed below.

Green Tree Retention

Timber sales in the south GFMA maintain 16 to 25 large green trees per acre in regeneration harvest units. Units in the north GFMA maintain 6 to 8 trees per acre.

Snags and Snag Recruitment

Standing dead trees which meet RMP requirements are left in units if they do not conflict with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety guidelines and if they do not conflict with prescribed burning.

Connectivity

Designated connectivity blocks are spaced across the District. Twenty-five to 30 percent of each block (640 acre section), is to be maintained in late-successional forest, managed on a 150-year rotation. Regeneration harvest areas in connectivity blocks maintain a minimum of 12 to 18 green trees per acre.

Additional connectivity is provided by the riparian management network (100 to 300 feet on each side of a creek) and by 250 100-acre owl cores (which are managed as Late Successional Reserves-LSR).

Wildlife Survey and Manage—Wildlife Special Status Species

In 2005, wildlife biologists have been operating under the revised Special Status Species list (2003). The Survey and Manage Record of Decision (2004) which eliminated the Survey and Manage category was litigated and the court overturned the decisions resulting from that ROD. The Survey and Manage and Special Status Species program is likely to undergo significant changes as BLM responds to this court ruling.

Medford's Ashland Resource Area completed the field work on six great gray owls which were radioed with harness transmitters. An Ashland RA wildlife biologist is compiling the results of the telemetry study throughout 2005 and 2006. Biologists in other resource areas also identified great gray owl sites when they occurred in project areas.

Medford worked with species experts to help develop fact sheets on rare invertebrates across the state. We developed fact sheets on two species in Medford: the Mardon Skipper, a candidate butterfly, and the Siskiyou short-horned grasshopper, a Bureau Sensitive species.

The Mardon skipper is known only from the Medford/Rogue River Siskiyou area and a location in Washington state. BLM worked with USFWS, US Forest Service and Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (a non-profit entomology organization) to evaluate the meadows where these rare butterflies have been found. Several Medford biologists participated in a state conservation team on the Mardon skipper helping identify high priority needs for the species. As part of this effort, a Medford BLM wildlife biologist wrote the Conservation Assessment for the Mardon skipper. Field trips to known sites with Forest Service ecologists, BLM wildlife biologists and representatives from Xerces aided in identification of key habitat characteristics of adult use areas and development of a preliminary habitat description. Surveys were conducted in the Ashland Resource Area in 2006. Further surveys are planned to aid in determination of the range and habitat use of the species.

The Siskiyou short-horned grasshopper is also known only from the Medford District area. Only one specimen has been collected and recorded. Dr. Greg Brenner helped develop an identification key for these rare grasshoppers and conducted a field trip where several Medford biologists were trained in searching for and collecting this rare species. One additional specimen was confirmed. The field trip was valuable in determining habitat use and potential management guidelines.

Federally-listed species management

Northern spotted owls are federally listed as threatened. Biologists confirmed 155 sites in the 2005 nesting season. The owl demographic study continued in the Glendale Resource area as one of two BLM long-term owl effectiveness projects designed to rigorously monitor northern spotted populations trend. The USFWS conducted a status review on northern spotted owls and utilized information from the demographic study areas along with other information (USFWS 2004). In addition, this information was used in a review of the progress and implementation of the NWFP.

Oregon State University biologists continued monitoring the owls from the Timbered Rock Fire of 2002 in the Butte Falls RA. There is little published information available relating to spotted owl habitat use and demographic performance in a post-wildfire landscape. Information gained from the study is to aid in assessing impacts and in making future management decisions.

To the extent time and other budget priorities allowed, monitoring of 12 bald eagles (federal threatened) and five peregrine falcons (recently delisted) were conducted. Although peregrine falcons have been delisted from the Federal Endangered Species list, some post-delisting monitoring is required to track their recovery. Future monitoring is required to confirm occupancy. Medford biologists participate in nationwide winter bald eagle monitoring.

Surveys for federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp continue on lands managed by Butte Falls Resource Area on Upper and Lower Table Rock. Three hundred forty-four acres of federally administered land on the top of the Table Rocks were designated critical habitat for the vernal pool fairy shrimp in 2003. The vernal pools in the Agate Desert/Table Rocks area are the northernmost extent of the range of vernal pool fairy shrimp. The vernal pool fairy shrimp surveys will be completed in February 2006. We will have a final report on the two-year project later this spring.

Special Habitats

The District continues to manage special habitats as specified in the Resource Management Plan. Biologists are reviewing these areas for consideration in the WOPR. Meadows are managed for their unique characteristics, as are caves and abandoned mines, talus habitats, and riparian/marshlands. BLM continues its partnership with the Nature Conservancy to manage the Table Rocks and associated vernal pool habitat.

Big Game and Furbearers

Big game and mammal habitat objectives were included in fuels treatment prescriptions across much of the District, focusing primarily in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones. The District continues to participate with ODFW in road and habitat management for big game, including participation in the green dot program. The District continues to try to restore habitat destroyed by a few members of the public that violate road closure regulations and cause extensive damage to roads and streams.

We also deal with resource damage due to vehicles being driven off road in areas that are not closed. Mud bogging has become a recreational activity for some people and low elevation meadows are especially vulnerable to resource damage from deep ruts and mud holes which diminish wildlife habitat suitability. The Butte Falls RA has completed an EA that includes a seasonal restriction on motorized vehicles, fence construction, and damaged land rehabilitation in an area where deer and elk winter range are being affected. The fence will be constructed and land rehabilitation work will begin in 2006.

Baited furbearer surveys continued at various locations throughout the District, primarily to target pine marten and fisher (SSS), although some baseline information is obtained about other carnivores. Cooperation with Dr. Karen Stone Southern Oregon University continued on a fisher project near I-5, where students learn to conduct wildlife inventories and collect DNA information. A fisher science team was initiated in 2005 across Washington and Oregon. A wildlife biologist from the Butte Falls RA is the BLM representative on the team. The fisher science team is expected to be active in 2006, depending on the availability of funding. They will contribute support and make recommendations to the team that will be writing the conservation assessment and conservation strategy for the fisher.

Neotropical Migratory Birds

The Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas continued fall and spring Monitoring Population and Avian Productivity in partnership with Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) at a site which provides important spring and fall migration habitat for Willow Flycatchers, a Bureau special status species.

This data is being analyzed for longterm trends in abundance, reproduction, and survivorship and is being compared with other similar stations from within the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network. As part of this partnership, KBO, in cooperation with SOU, trains college level interns. KBO continues to promote monitoring efforts and its partnerships with the BLM and others by presenting at various meetings, and by submitting articles and papers to be included in newsletters and technical publications.

Bats

Biologists through the District continued to collect data on these cryptic, nocturnal species and contribute data for regional species group evaluations. Several biologists from the District are associated with the Bat Working Group—a group of professional biologists from private, state and federal agencies—which is looking for efficient mechanisms to evaluate bat populations, some of which are on Special Status Species lists.



Wildlife biologists prepare to set up a mist net across a pond. The net will allow them to capture bats without harming them when they fly down to drink. The bats are then weighed, measured and identified as part of on-going statewide research on bat populations.

AQUATIC HABITAT AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

A variety of activities to maintain or enhance fisheries and fish habitat were conducted in fiscal year 2005. The primary focus of the fisheries program were impact assessments for timber sales. Other assessments included fish passage projects, road maintenance, fuels treatment activities, monitoring of grazing allotments, fish habitat and populations. Additionally, biological assessments were completed for Endangered Species Act consultations. These activities represent the majority of the workload and also involve considerable time spent in field, visits and meetings. The following are other activities performed by fisheries personnel on the Medford District.

Watershed Council Cooperation

The District provided technical assistance to Watershed Councils and Counties in support of the Bureau's commitment to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. BLM provided funding to Watershed Councils for various projects, including participation in watershed council planning meetings with the Upper Rogue and the Sevens Basin Watershed Councils, as well as project coordination. Other coordination includes projects with the Applegate, Williams Watershed Councils, and Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District.

Fish Passage

Fish passage is a high priority for range extension for salmon and an ongoing need in the Medford District. Six culverts were replaced on coho salmon and steelhead streams and four on trout streams. Culvert projects allow upstream migration to several miles of spawning and rearing habitat in the following streams: Whitehorse, Rattlesnake, Quedo, Draper, Thompson, Waters (Bear), and North Fork Silver Creeks. Projects occurred in the Umpqua and Rogue River Basins. In addition, a culvert was removed for fish passage on a tributary to West Fork Williams Creek.



Contractors lower a concrete slab for a new bridge deck across Rock Creek. The bridge replaces an old culvert which hindered fish migration.

Population/Habitat Monitoring

Ten miles of spawning surveys for coho and steelhead occurred on several streams. Sensitive classified aquatic mollusk species monitoring totaled two acres of habitat. Juvenile coho densities were monitored on Sugarpine Creek and Hawk Creek to monitor density trends. Density surveys combined with spawning surveys on Sugarpine, Hawk, West Branch Trail, and West Fork Evans Creeks helped to determine the success of habitat restoration projects. Monitoring occurred on Star Gulch and lamprey distribution in Bear Creek and the Applegate River. Riparian habitat was monitored within grazing allotments to determine impacts. Two miles of snorkeling surveys on North Fork Deer, Pickett, Crooks, East Fork Williams, Galice, and Sucker Creeks. Fall chinook spawning was monitored in the Recreational Section of the Rogue River.

Instream Habitat Improvement

Instream projects include the planning and design of habitat restoration on approximately 0.5 mile of Waters Creek, and a large wood placement project in Star Gulch. A salmon and steelhead habitat improvement project included large wood and boulder placement on West Fork Evans Creek.

Riparian Habitat

Fences were constructed in grazing allotments and monitoring took place on allotments to determine the extent of grazing on fish habitat. Riparian thinning and fencing is proposed on three streams to improve vegetation and bank stability. Road decommissioning was completed including culvert removal on a tributary to West Fork Williams Creek.

Endangered Species Act

The District submitted eleven biological assessments to the National Marine Fisheries Service for Section 7 consultation of the Endangered Species Act. These assessments were for timber sales, grazing and landscape management projects. Assessments represent a major part of the fisheries program workload.

Public Outreach

Many educational presentations were conducted for Watershed Councils, schools, and various other community groups. Fisheries personnel taught schoolchildren about water quality, riparian vegetation, aquatic insects, and salmon life cycles at several of Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch events held around the Rogue Basin. Free Fishing Day and CAST for Kids Day events were held at BLM's Hyatt Lake Campground, providing loaner fishing gear, boat rides, and educational activities for the public. Other outreach activities include National Public Lands Day, the Junior Achievement Program, and the Little Butte School Field Day. BLM continued a long-term Office Lobby display of chinook eggs and fry growing in an aquarium for public enjoyment.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Management and treatment of noxious weeds in the Medford District uses all aspects of integrated pest management, and continues to be a critical element for all resource programs. Currently, the Medford District is emphasizing control of 13 species of exotic plants—yellow starthistle, purple loosestrife, puncturevine, diffuse knapweed, meadow knapweed, spotted knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, tansy ragwort, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, Spanish broom. The number of sites targeted for treatment each year is subject to change, depending upon new infestations, funding, cooperation from adjacent landowners, and effectiveness of control methods.

The following is a partial list of accomplishments completed in 2005:

- **Education/Awareness:** Weed control presentations made at county fairs, elementary to college level students, commercial businesses, federal agencies, contractors, and other interest groups. Television and newspaper ads, as well as talk-radio shows aid in educating the general public.
- **Prevention:** Require clean equipment prior to engaging in any soil disturbing activities. Create contract stipulations requiring contractors to clean equipment prior to bringing it on BLM administered lands. BLM/FS funded vehicle wash facility aides in cleaning agency vehicles of weed seeds and parts. Having all seed used in restoration efforts tested for noxious weed content prior to purchase.
- **Inventory:** 48,800± acres inventoried for noxious weeds, conducted during vascular plant surveys.
- **Control:** Many, if not all the species targeted for control in the district were treated using the following methods: 205 acres using hand-pulling methods, 4,130 acres using chemical controls, 447 acres using seedings, 30 acres mechanically controlled, and 50 acres with biological agents.
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring previously treated sites continues on most weed treatment projects.



A contractor treats roadside weeds by handspraying. The herbicide is combined with a blue dye which will show the contractor where he has sprayed and will allow the contract administrator to see that the herbicide is disposed of properly.

BOTANICAL SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

In order to meet: 1) the Bureau's policy to conserve, manage and prevent the need to federally list any Special Status plant species; 2) the 2004 Survey and Manage ROD; 3) the Endangered Species Act; and 4) the 2003 programmatic Biological Opinion for Listed plants, the following actions were taken by the Medford District botany program staff.

Federally Listed and Special Status Plant Surveys

In 2005, clearance surveys for Federal, State Listed, and Bureau Special Status Plants occurred on 74,777 acres in support of timber sales, fuels reduction, thinning, restoration, grazing allotments and other ground disturbing actions. Surveys occurred for both vascular (38,137 acres) and non-vascular (36,640 acres) plants. All but 2,259 acres were surveyed through contracts with local small business contractors.

Ashland:	23,799 ac
Butte Falls	13,158 ac
Glendale	22,627 ac
<u>Grants Pass</u>	<u>15,193 ac</u>
District:	74,777 acres ¹ within project areas.

Contract costs vary between survey contracts, but average around \$8.00/acre. Using the average cost, approximately \$550,000 was awarded to botanical contractors in the local community.

New Plant Finds

In 2005, surveyors found 783 new occurrences (sites) of Federal and Bureau Special Status plants (State listed, Sensitive, and Assessment), and Tracking species. Eighteen new sites were found for the Federally listed endangered plants *Fritillaria gentneri* and *Lomatium cookii*. There were 275 new sites found for State listed, Sensitive or Assessment species, and 490 new sites for tracking species. These rare plant occurrences can be as small as a single plant, or as large as a 20-acre polygon containing hundreds of plants. The majority of rare plant sites on the Medford District of the BLM are small with fewer than 10 plants occupying less than a few square meters. Only federally listed and Bureau Special Status plants are conserved and managed under Bureau policy. Tracking species are not managed, conserved, or protected from management actions, but they are documented and reported.

In 2005, eight new sites in the Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas were found for the federally listed endangered *Fritillaria gentneri*. This brings the total number of occurrences for this listed lily to 120 sites² on lands managed by the Medford BLM and they contain approximately 3,000 flowering individuals. While the BLM has the majority of occurrences, additional *Fritillaria* sites occur on other federal lands (Forest Service), State, Jackson and Josephine County, the city of Jacksonville, and private lands. Ten new sites were found in the Grants Pass resource area for *Lomatium cookii*, bringing the total

¹ The accomplished acres include surveys for vascular and non-vascular plants in which case most acres are double counted as they are independent surveys on the same acreage. Non-vascular plant surveys were 36,640 acres and vascular plants surveys were 38,137 acres.

² Medford Rare Plant Database, 2005.

known for federal lands in the Illinois valley to 32 sites. Other sites occur on State, county and private lands in the Illinois valley and in the Agate desert area north of Medford. No TE plants were found in the Glendale Resource area in 2005.

2005 Medford Rare Plant Finds (new occurrences)

Resource Area	Federally Listed	Special Status Species	Tracking	Totals
Ashland & CSNM	7	135	220	362
Butte falls	1	77	116	194
Glendale	0	30	84	114
Grants Pass	10	33	70	113
Totals	18	275	490	783

Sites of federal, state listed, and sensitive plants are protected from habitat disturbing activities by variable radius buffers or other mitigation measures (e.g., changing the treatment prescription) that conserve the species. Mitigating assessment species sites often occurs since these species are rare at the State scale and their conservation is biologically appropriate. Protecting tracking species is discretionary under BLM Special Status Species policy and generally doesn't occur. All data collected on new sites is entered into the Medford Rare Plant database and GIS layers, and is sent to the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center. Starting in 2005, all data was entered into the new State Database, GEOBOB.

Monitoring

District monitoring of rare plant sites occurred under the challenge cost share program with support from BLM botany personnel. All of the monitoring is done on existing sites to evaluate trends of higher priority species (federally listed and sensitive). Listed below are the number of sites/populations that were monitored in 2005. This information is reported in the Management Information System (MIS) for 2005 and was down considerably from 2003 and 2004 because of reduced budgets.

Bureau Sensitive plant sites across the district (revisits mostly)	49 sites
<i>Lomatium cookii</i> sites in Grants Pass Resource area	3 sites
<i>Fritillaria gentneri</i> sites across the district	80 sites
Medford District Total	132 sites

Monitoring Highlights

Some of the more important monitoring for rare plants is summarized below. Individual detailed reports are on file at the Medford BLM office.

***Fritillaria gentneri* (Gentner's fritillary)**

Three monitoring projects are currently taking place for this listed species. Annual population counts at 55 sites across the Medford district and two demographic studies are collecting detailed population information on this listed endangered plant. One of the demographic study sites is in the Jacksonville woodlands (Ashland Resource Area) and the other is in Pickett Creek (Grants Pass Resource Area).

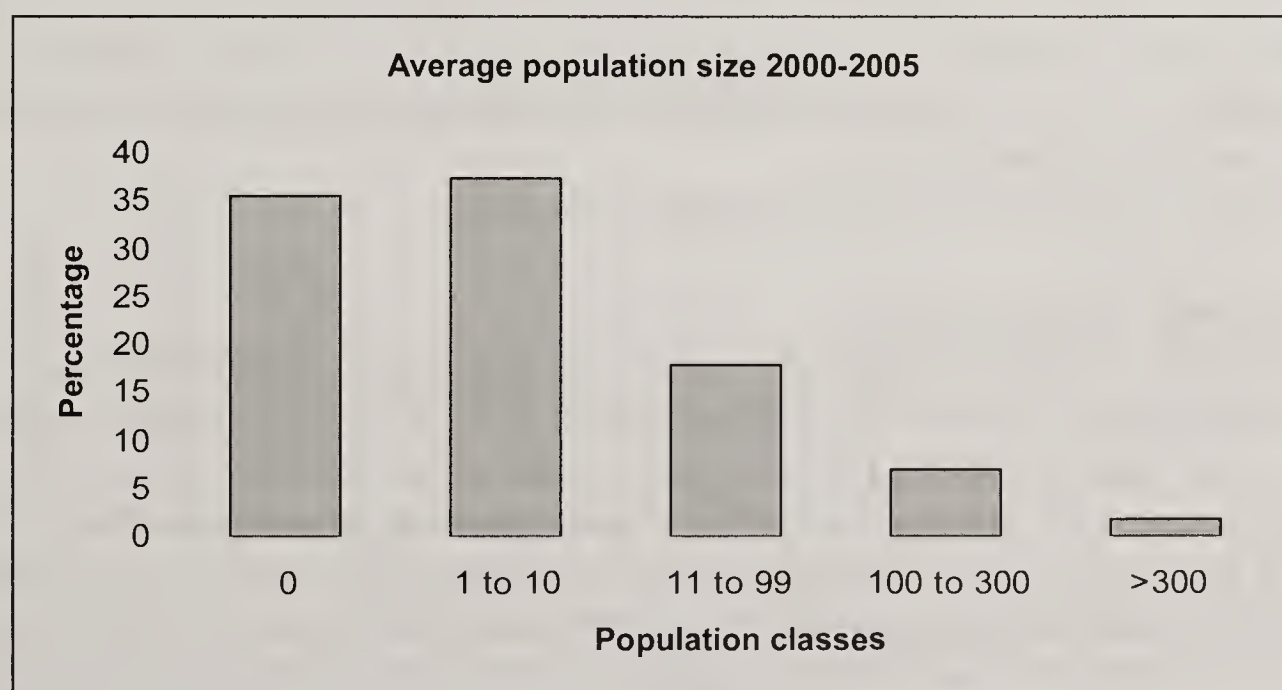
Fritillaria revisits:

Since 1998, the district botanists have started revisited *Fritillaria* sites. Initially in 1998, fifteen sites were monitored; in 2000, thirty-four sites; and by 2005, fifty-six sites (including the the Pickett creek demographic site). Unfortunately, in different years not all sites were monitored, so except for certain years, comparisons using total plants cannot be made. Patterns can be inferred from averages however.

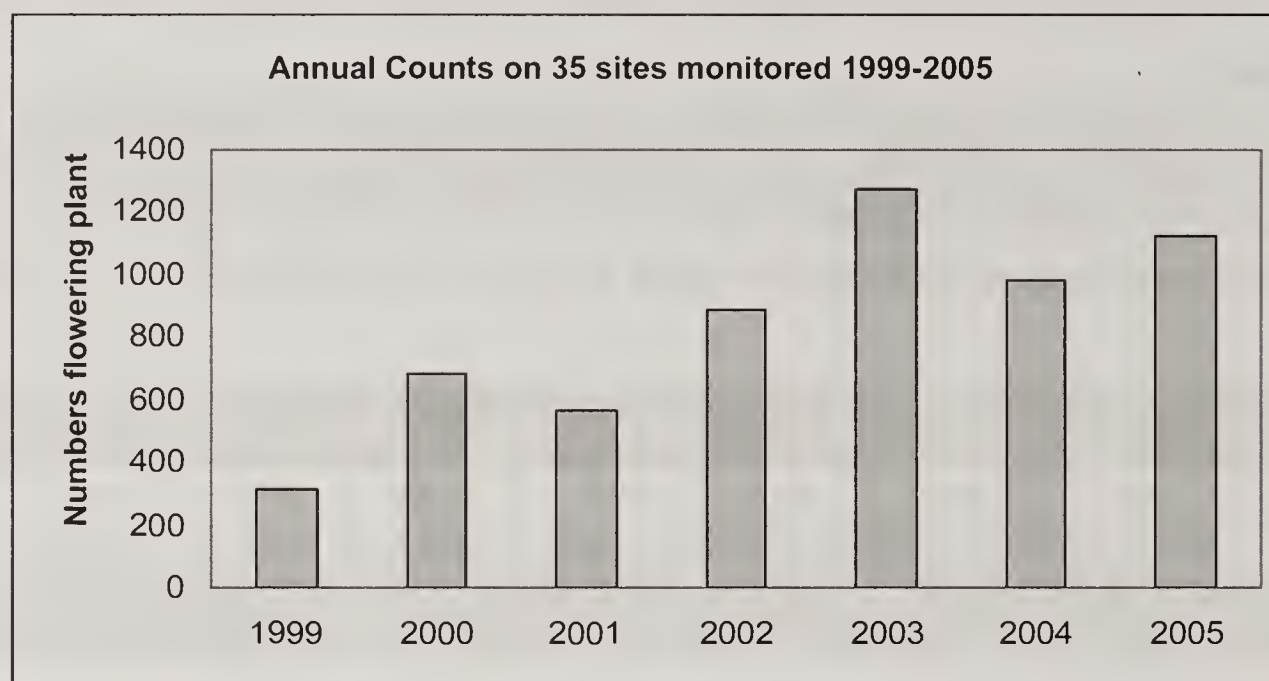
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Count	46	310	683	617	1336	1322	1952	1727
Sites	15	34	34	39	46	45	56	56
Average	3.07	9.12	20.09	15.82	29.04	29.38	34.86	30.84

In 2005, for the 56 revisited *Fritillaria gentneri* sites, 34 percent (20 sites) showed a net increase in the number of plants, 33 percent (18 sites) showed no change, and 33 percent of the sites (19 sites) showed a decrease from previous numbers. A total net decrease of 225 flowering plants (1,727) was seen for all 57 sites compared to 2004 (1,952). The average number of plants for all sites was approximately 31, a slight decrease from 2004 (approximately 35).

Since 1998, most of the flowering plants occur on a small percentage of all the sites. Only nine percent of all the monitored sites have more than 100 plants on average. Thirty-six percent of the sites average fewer than 1 (including zero) plants in any given year (either dormant or extirpated), and 38 percent of the sites have fewer than ten plants on average.



Thirty-five of the 56 sites that have seven years of repeat data for comparative purposes. Looking at the total number of flowering plants on 35 sites, there appears to be overall increasing or stable trend, with 2005 slightly up 2004.



Monitoring will continue at these sites in 2005.

Demographic Studies

Annual demographic monitoring at the Jacksonville woodlands and at the Pickett Creek site was done in 2005. These two long term studies track individuals through various life stages and gather information on flowering, seed set and dormancy. Pickett creek is in its fourth year of monitoring (2002-2005), and the Jacksonville woodlands site is in its sixth and final year. (1999-2005).

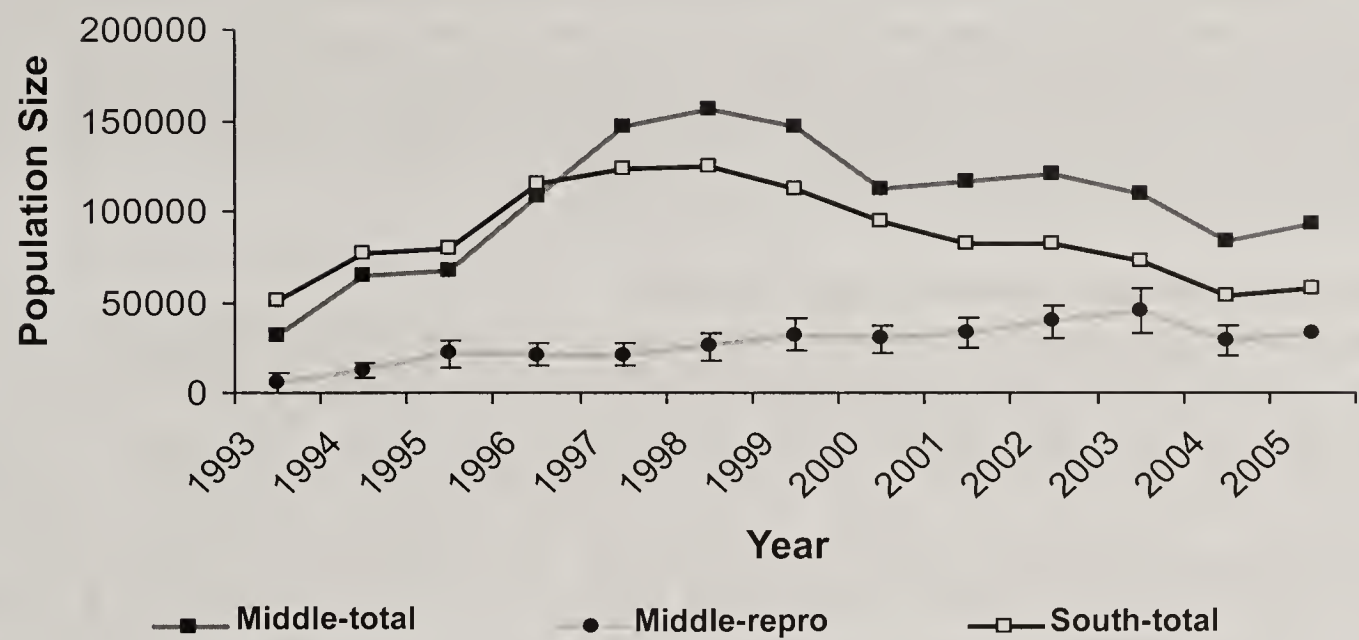
It is too soon to make conclusive statements, but initial data show large differences year to year in reproduction, dormancy, and recruitment. These differences are a likely response to environmental variables (i.e. precipitation, heat loads, etc.), but overall the patterns seems stable. Additional years are needed before statistically valid conclusions can be drawn. Additional information can be found in the 2005 reports on file at the Medford district.

No other monitoring was funded for *Fritillaria gentneri* in 2004.

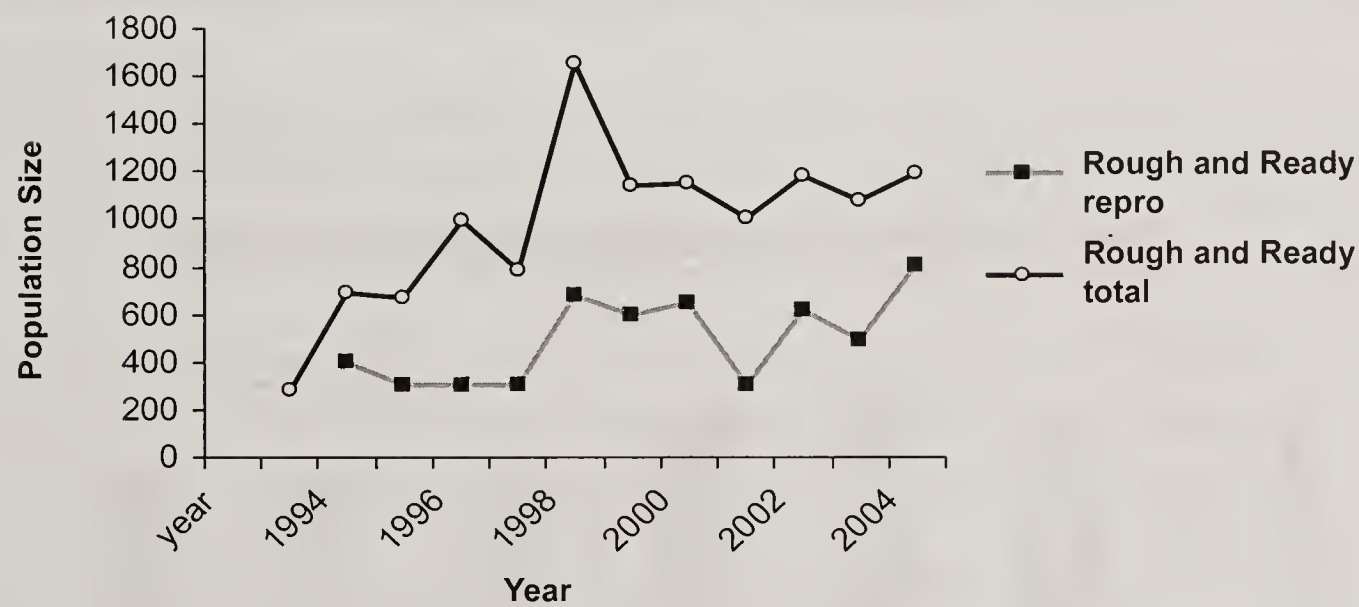
Lomatium cookii (Cook's desert-parsley)

This plant was federally listed as endangered in 2002, and demographic monitoring has been occurring at three locations in the Illinois Valley at French Flat Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Rough and Ready ACEC, and the Indian Hill site. The Institute of Applied Ecology, a partner in the study, has been the principal investigator since 1993. Trends from last year have continued, with French Flat slightly increasing from a low point in 2004, and Indian Hill and Rough and Ready slightly increasing and stable. Contact the Medford Office and copies of the 2005 report can be made available. The graphs below summarize the main conclusions from the 2004 data. Additional information can be found in the 2004 reports on file at the Medford district.

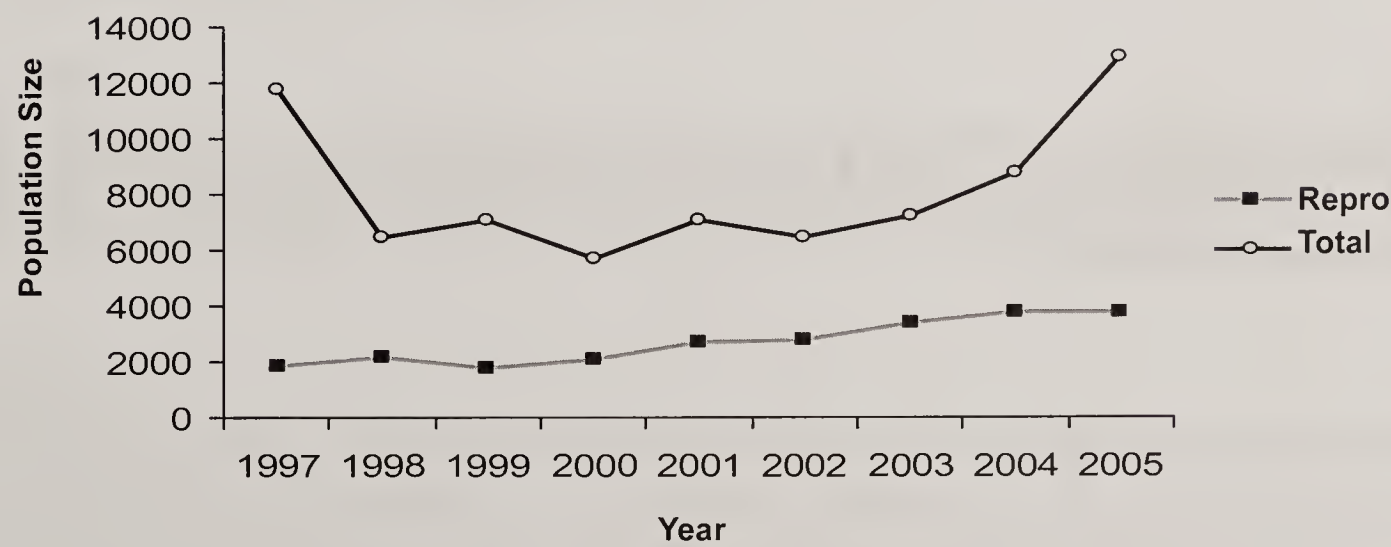
LOCO8 French Flat Population Size



LOCO8 Rough and Ready



LOCO8 Indian Hill



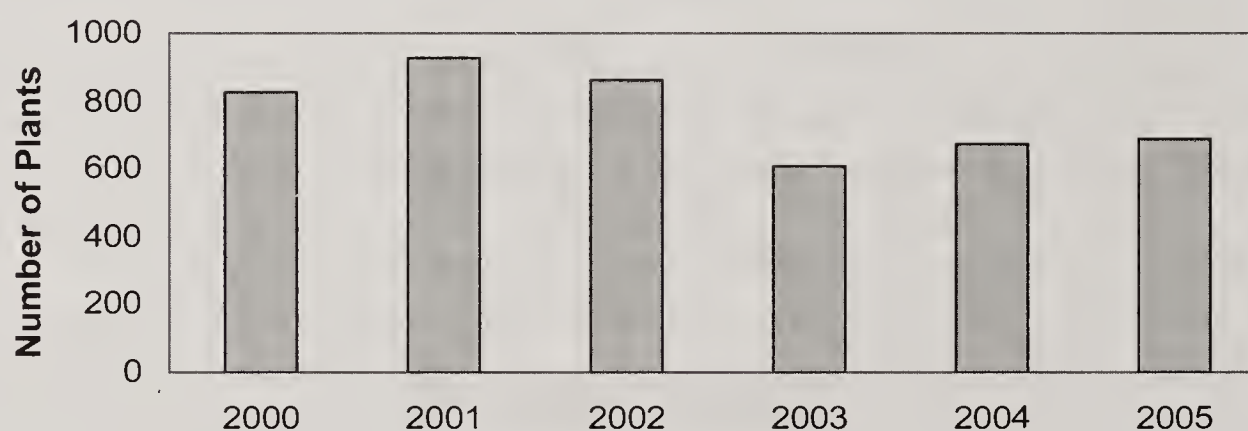
***Calochortus greenei* (Green's mariposa lily)**

As part of the grazing study within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, baseline monitoring in three areas occurred in 2003, with five paired plots (fenced and unfenced) in each area. The 30 plots were read in 2004 and 2005 looking at demographic counts, flowering and seed set, and herbivory levels from insects and animals, including cattle. Two years of data is not conclusive, to establish trends, and additional years of data will be collected. The Institute of Applied Ecology is the partner in this challenge-cost share study and will be monitoring in 2006.

***Cypripedium fasciculatum* (clustered lady's slipper)**

Twenty seven sites have been monitored on Medford BLM since 2000, collecting demographic data on dormancy, reproduction, and age class distribution. The sites represent a small sample of the range of the species in the sub-basin, and different plant communities and successional states. Total population counts for the 27 sites are displayed below. In 2005, 691 plants emerged which was a slight increase from the last two years counts (611 and 671 respectively). While the short-term trend appears down a little (there was 928 stems in 2001), it is too soon to say what the long term trend for this orchid is. Plants often can have widely fluctuating counts year to year based on edaphic and climatic variables. Other data show that the average population size remains small (between 22 and 33 plants per site), with only three sites having more than 50 plants. Only 40 percent (304 plants) of the monitored plants flowered in 2005, which is similar to past years. About 35 percent of the flowers successfully set fruit.

Total *Cypripedium fasciculatum* Counts on 27 sites



Monitoring will continue in 2006. After a few more years of data collection, population viability analysis can be done that will look at transitional matrices and deterministic growth rates and model predictions on long term trends.

Native Plant Collection and Production

Summary

The Medford District Native Plant program continues to meet the requests and needs of resource areas for native grass seed and plant material for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Production shifted away from Stone Nursery (due to a change in management direction) to the Corvallis Plant Materials Center and other commercial growers. The requests and needs for native plant material for projects were met. There were three major wildfires in three resource areas.

The major changes in 2005 from last year are:

1. Increase in yield and quality of native grass from commercial growers;
2. Significant decline in the amount of native grass under production at Stone Nursery;
3. Continuing effort to diversify plant material and seed production of native forbs, brush and hardwood species for inclusion in our restoration mix;
4. Increase in native grass and forb diversity and production at the Plant Material Center in Corvallis OR.

No other district in the country has a more active native plant program. Native grass seed was applied on approximately 1,100 acres across the district in seven project type categories. More than 21,000 lbs of seed was sown on these projects at the rate of approximately 15 pounds per acre.

Native Seed Production

Nearly all the seed produced is scheduled for use on wildfire rehabilitation and district restoration projects. All grass seed produced originated from locally collected geno-types. Seventy-four seed-lots (sources) representing 14 native grass species produced seed in 2005. The gross yield of seed reached 26,800 lbs. (Approximately one third of the weight is removed during cleaning.) This was a very large production year for the Medford BLM. Twelve other species of riparian hardwoods, shrub and forb species were grown for out planting.

Over 70 percent of the Native Plant program costs were out-sourced to commercial contractors. Just under 80 percent of the seed production acres are under contract with commercial growers. The trend is to maintain commercial seed production through the Native Grass Grow-Out IDIQ contract at about the same level, and maintain seed increase production at state and federal nurseries at about the same level.

Other related activities that are out-sourced include seed cleaning (30 percent), weeding of seed increase fields (100 percent), and application of seed in the field (100 percent). The remaining 30 percent goes to Federal Nurseries (J.H. Stone FS Nursery and NRCS Plant Material Center, Corvallis OR) for seed increase and other production expenses.

Native Seed Collection

The Medford District hosted a Student Conservation Association crew of four this year to collect native plant seed for Kew Botanical garden, Berry Botanical Garden and Medford District BLM. Seed from 98 native plant species of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees were collected and 172 vouchers prepared.

Funding Sources

Over the past years, multiple funding sources have contributed to the development and sustenance of the native plant program. This seems to be a well-rounded approach in cost sharing, since each one of these activities receives benefits from the program. Last year, however, only two funding sources contributed to the program. The following programs have contributed funding in the past:

1150* Threatened and Endangered Species
 1560* Fire Emergency Rehab
 2881 National fire Program
 5882 Title II Funds
 5310* Repair of Damaged lands
 6320* Western Oregon Reforestation and Forest Development
 6333* Western Oregon Soil, Water and Air
 6334* Western Oregon Wildlife Habitat Management
 6650* Jobs in the Woods

*No contribution in 2005

Medford District Native Grass Program

Native Grass and Forb Seed Production – FY 2005 and 2004										
	No. of Species		No. of Sources		Acres of Production		Yield Clean Seed (lbs)		Straw Bales (#)	
	FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05
Outsourcing (4 prime contractors)	4	10	10	23	87	83	18,579 cleaned	24,969 cleaned	0	25 tons
State Nursery	1	0	1	0	1.5	0	1,937	0	0	0
Oregon Stewardship	2	2	2	2	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0
J.H. Stone FS Nursery	9	14	37	41	24	17	6,272 (un-cleaned)	6,066 (un-cleaned)	3,000	2,000 bales
NRCS Plant Material Center, Corvallis, OR	4	8	4	8	1.5	1.5	0	5	0	0
FY Total	9	14	52	74	115	102	26,788	31,039	3,000	25 tons 2,000 bales

Field Projects Summary Accomplishments by Fiscal Year						
Watershed Enhancement Projects	2003		2004		2005	
Oak Woodland Restoration	75	760	75	760	150	4,670
Wildfire Restoration	1,437	12,637	0	0	175	4,910
Fuels Reduction/Habitat Enhancement	925	6,512	1,550	10,500	712	9,750
Repair of Damaged Lands	1	10	1	20	20	350
Riparian Reserve Soil Stabilization	9	95	0	0	0	0
Area of Critical Environmental Concern Restoration Projects	20	40	0	0	0	0
Weed Treatment	210	4,400	100	1,000	0	0
Lands Treatment: mining restoration, etc.	1	14	1	14	0	0
Shrub Restoration	166	1,860	166	1,860	0	0
Road Projects						
Road Decommission or Road Obliteration	64	831	55	1,200	50	1,000
New Road Construction or Maintenance	11	196	10	300	0.5	200
Road Cut-bank Stabilization	14	175	10	300	10	100
Total Amount	2,933	27,530	1,968	15,954	11,175	20,980

2005 Medford District Native Seed Collections		
Organization	Number Collected	
	Species	Vouchers
Kew Botanical Garden	52	108
Berry Botanical Garden	2	0
Medford District	44	64
Totals	98	172

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Listed below is a summary of events and actions relating to Areas of Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs) that occurred in fiscal year 2005 on the Medford District .

- **New Proposals:** No new ACECs were proposed for the Medford district in 2005.
- **Management Plans:** No ACEC/RNA management plans were written in 2005. The Oregon Gulch RNA, and Scotch Creek RNA plans that are in the final Cascade Siskiyou National Monument EIS are awaiting signature.
- **ACEC Actions:** No actions occurred in 2005.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The program provided cultural and historic input into the Analysis of the Management Situation for the Western Oregon Plan Revision, wildland fires and other planning documents as requested. The program continues to solicit tribal input for important projects and to keep an updated list of interested tribes. The district archeologist was designated District liaison for all resource issues with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. We entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office for the addition to the Smullin Visitor Center at the Rand Ranger Station, a National Register of Historic Places site. During monitoring of the trenches for the drain field for the addition to the Smullin Center, an historic can dump dating to the late 1800s through the early 1900s was encountered and appropriate salvage operations were undertaken. Public outreach and education goals were addressed through the continuation of the assistance agreement with Southern Oregon University for the archeological field school which teaches students the proper archeological field methods. District personnel also participated in a number of public presentations.

RURAL INTERFACE AREAS

The objective of the resource management plan for the rural interface areas is to consider the interests of adjacent and nearby rural residential landowners during analysis, planning and monitoring activities occurring within managed rural interface areas. These interests include personal health and safety, improvements to property, and quality of life.

The BLM manages rural interface areas encompassing approximately 136,000 acres within one-quarter mile of private land zoned for 1-5 acre or 5-20 acre lots located throughout the Medford District.

In the past year, the BLM has worked with numerous local individuals and groups such as watershed councils, fire protection groups, area citizen groups, and environmental coalitions to mitigate many features of land management that are in close proximity to private residences.

Gates and other barricades are used to stop unauthorized use of public roads and dust abatement measures to mitigate impacts to neighbors. The BLM is also attempting to reduce fuels hazards on public lands adjacent to private properties.

SOCIOECONOMIC

The Medford District continues to successfully contribute to local, state, national and international economies through monetary payments, sustainable use of BLM-managed lands and resources, and use of innovative contracting as well as other implementation strategies.

The District provides employment opportunities for local companies, contractors, and individuals through a wide variety of contractual opportunities and through the harvesting of forest products. These

opportunities include the sale of commercial timber; silvicultural treatment projects such as thinning, planting trees, repairing storm damaged roads; and collecting Special Forest Products including ferns, mushrooms, and firewood. The District also provides developed and undeveloped recreational facilities (such as campgrounds, hiking trails, boat ramps, and wildlife viewing facilities) that bring visitors to the area, providing indirect benefits to tourism-related businesses.

Total Payments and Total Acres by County Fiscal Year 2005		
County	Total Payment	Total Acres
BENTON COUNTY	\$4,017	20,301
CLACKAMAS COUNTY	\$103,436	522,737
CLATSOP COUNTY	\$864	391
COLUMBIA COUNTY	\$0	1
COOS COUNTY	\$13,371	67,573
CROOK COUNTY	\$185,966	939,816
CURRY COUNTY	\$117,051	591,543
DESCHUTES COUNTY	\$283,553	1,432,996
DOUGLAS COUNTY	\$187,830	949,237
GILLIAM COUNTY	\$47,703	34,616
GRANT COUNTY	\$346,722	1,752,233
HARNEY COUNTY	\$589,345	4,465,146
HOOD RIVER COUNTY	\$40,717	205,773
JACKSON COUNTY	\$91,147	460,631
JEFFERSON COUNTY	\$58,786	297,088
JOSEPHINE COUNTY	\$69,274	350,091
KLAMATH COUNTY	\$427,306	2,159,482
LAKE COUNTY	\$589,345	3,703,245
LANE COUNTY	\$271,055	1,369,835
LINCOLN COUNTY	\$36,496	184,443
LINN COUNTY	\$94,192	476,022
MALHEUR COUNTY	\$1,448,289	4,300,684
MARION COUNTY	\$40,446	204,378
MORROW COUNTY	\$29,673	149,960
MULTNOMAH COUNTY	\$15,025	75,930
POLK COUNTY	\$0	435
SHERMAN COUNTY	\$75,697	53,672
TILLAMOOK COUNTY	\$18,385	92,913
UMATILLA COUNTY	\$132,402	419,102
UNION COUNTY	\$415,504	624,346
WALLOWA COUNTY	\$231,094	1,167,805
WASCO COUNTY	\$43,837	221,541
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$3,719	2,608
WHEELER COUNTY	\$60,214	301,926
YAMHILL COUNTY	\$5,103	25,790
TOTAL	6,428,257	28,644,943

Monetary Payments

The Bureau of Land Management contributes financially to the local economy in a variety of ways. One of these ways is through financial payments, including Payments in Lieu of Taxes and O&C Payments. Payments of each type were made in FY 2005 as directed in current legislation. The specific amounts paid to the counties under each revenue sharing program in FY 2005 are displayed in the adjacent table. Each type of payment program is described below.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (or PILT) are made annually to local governments and help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-565 (October 20, 1976). This law was rewritten and amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982, and codified as Chapter 69, Title 31 of the United States Code. The law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact. PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection,

construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. They are one of the ways that the Federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities. This role is especially important for the BLM, which manages more public land than any other Federal agency.

Payments to Counties

Payments are currently made to counties under The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The purpose of the act is "To restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the BLM for use by the counties for the benefit of public schools, roads and other purposes." The public domain lands managed by the BLM refers only to Oregon and California Revested Grantlands (O&C) and Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands (CBWR), not public domain lands. The O&C lands consist of approximately 2.5 million acres of federally-owned forest lands in 18 western Oregon counties, including approximately 74,500 acres of Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands in the Coos Bay and Roseburg BLM Districts.

Fiscal Year 2005 was the fifth year that payments were made to western Oregon counties under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). Counties made elections to receive the standard O&C payment as calculated under the Act of August 28, 1937 or the Act of May 24, 1939, or the calculated full payment amount as determined under P.L. 106-393. All counties in the Medford District elected to receive payments under the new legislation. Beginning in

FY2005 Secure Rural Schools Payments to Counties (Payments were made October 25, 2005)					
County	Title I Paid to County	Title III Paid to County	Total Paid to County	Title II Retained By BLM	Grand Total
Benton	\$2,745,418.32	\$353,674.48	\$3,099,092.80	\$130,811.11	\$3,229,903.91
Clackamas	\$5,422,445.44	\$754,995.78	\$6,177,441.22	\$201,906.36	\$6,379,347.58
Columbia	\$2,012,655.42	\$237,966.91	\$2,250,622.33	\$117,207.58	\$2,367,829.91
Coos	\$5,764,401.45	\$773,107.96	\$6,537,509.41	\$244,139.36	\$6,781,648.77
Coos (CBWR)	\$721,661.37	\$96,787.52	\$818,448.89	\$30,564.48	\$849,013.37
Curry	\$3,566,112.76	\$308,363.87	\$3,874,476.63	\$320,950.15	\$4,195,426.78
Douglas	\$24,474,280.76	\$1,079,747.68	\$25,554,028.44	\$3,239,243.04	\$28,793,271.48
Douglas (CBWR)	\$130,459.74	\$5,755.58	\$136,215.32	\$17,266.73	\$153,482.05
Jackson	\$15,309,859.47	\$1,350,869.95	\$16,660,729.42	\$1,350,869.95	\$18,011,599.37
Josephine	\$11,802,367.73	\$1,041,385.39	\$12,843,753.12	\$1,041,385.39	\$13,885,138.51
Klamath	\$2,286,220.24	\$80,690.13	\$2,366,910.37	\$322,760.50	\$2,689,670.87
Lane	\$14,919,052.59	\$1,342,714.73	\$16,261,767.32	\$1,290,059.25	\$17,551,826.57
Lincoln	\$351,726.19	\$37,241.60	\$388,967.79	\$24,827.73	\$413,795.52
Linn	\$2,579,325.39	\$227,587.54	\$2,806,912.93	\$227,587.54	\$3,034,500.47
Marion	\$1,426,445.11	\$188,794.20	\$1,615,239.31	\$62,931.40	\$1,678,170.71
Multnomah	\$1,064,948.74	\$170,932.13	\$1,235,880.87	\$17,000.00	\$1,252,880.87
Polk	\$2,110,357.15	\$316,553.57	\$2,426,910.72	\$55,862.39	\$2,482,773.11
Tillamook	\$547,129.63	\$32,345.02	\$579,474.65	\$64,207.27	\$643,681.92
Washington	\$615,520.84	\$0.00	\$615,520.84	\$108,621.32	\$724,142.16
Yamhill	\$703,452.38	\$124,138.66	\$827,591.04	\$0.00	\$827,591.04
	\$98,553,840.72	\$8,523,652.70	\$107,077,493.42	\$8,868,201.55	\$115,945,694.97

Title II Medford District RAC (Payments were made October 25, 2005)	
Curry	\$160,475.08
Douglas	421,101.60
Douglas (CBWR)	2,244.67
Jackson	1,337,226.16
Josephine	1,041,385.39
Klamath	322,760.50
Total	\$3,285,193.40

Fiscal Year 2001 and continuing through September 30, 2006 payments are to be made based on historic O&C payments to the counties. The table on page 25 displays the statewide payments made under each Title of P.L. 106-393 as well as the grand total and table at left displays the Title II payments for this District. Actual payments made in 2005 for fiscal year 2006 projects were distributed October 25, 2005.

Title I payments are made to the eligible counties based on the three highest payments to each county between the years 1986 and 1999. These payments may be used by the counties in the manner as previous 50-percent and “safety net” payments.

Title II payments are reserved by the counties in special account in the Treasury of the United States for funding projects providing protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives as outlined in P.L. 106-3983. BLM is directed to obligate these funds for projects selected by local Resource Advisory Committees and approved by the Secretary of Interior or her designee.

Title III payments are made to the counties for uses authorized in P.L. 106-393. These include: 1) search, rescue, and emergency services on Federal land, 2) community service work camps, 3) easement purchases, 4) forest-related educational opportunities, 5) fire prevention and county planning, and 6) community forestry.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs all federal agencies to “...make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing ...disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities.”

New projects with possible effects on minority populations and/or low-income populations will incorporate an analysis of Environmental Justice impacts to ensure any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects are identified, and reduced to acceptable levels if possible.

RECREATION

The Medford District's Recreation Management program continues to be one of the most diverse in the state. Developed sites include campgrounds at Hyatt Lake, Tucker Flat, Elderberry Flat and Skull Creek. Day use sites are maintained at Gold Nugget, Elderberry Flat, Hyatt Lake and along the Recreation Section of the Rogue River. Interpretive trails and sites are maintained at Eight Dollar Mountain, Table Rocks, Hyatt Lake, Gold Nugget, Rand Administrative Site, and three National Register Sites—the Whisky Creek Cabin, the Rogue River Ranch, and the Smullin Visitor Center at Rand on the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. A hang-gliding site is maintained at Woodrat Mountain near Ruch. A winter tubing hill and a system of cross country and snowmobile trails are maintained near Hyatt Lake. More people than ever before were taken on guided interpretive hikes on the Table Rocks with more than 3,500 school children and 2,500 adults participating in this ever popular activity.

In addition, two nationally designated trails, The Rogue River National Recreation Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, are maintained.

Forty-seven miles of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River are managed by the district, with BLM administering both the commercial and private permits. Rafting, boat and bank fishing, motorized tour boat travel, hiking on river trails, and other water related activities continue to flourish and grow.

For users who enjoy driving for pleasure, three Back Country Byways and three designated Off Highway Vehicle areas are managed. For non-motorized cyclists, the 74-mile Glendale to Powers Bicycle Recreation Area is maintained.

The 5,867 acre Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area as well as the developments at Hyatt Lake are now encompassed by the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument established in 2000. The Soda Mountain WSA continues to be managed under the non-impairment criteria of the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, pending Congressional action.

Winter recreation use continues to increase with more than 20 miles of cross-country ski trails and 60 miles of snowmobile trails maintained.

Dispersed use throughout the district includes hunting, fishing, camping, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hang gliding, caving, shooting, mountain biking, water play, sightseeing, hiking, rockhounding, geocaching, off highway vehicle use, recreational mining and mushroom and berry gathering. The types of uses increase every year as does the amount of use. As the outdoor recreation equipment industry continues to develop newer and more effective equipment, new unanticipated recreation activities emerge.

In addition to these activities, the district issues approximately 150 Special Recreation Permits for commercial, group events and competitive activities. The majority of these permits are issued to commercial outfitters and guides on the Rogue River. Additional permits are issued for coonhound trials, paintball wars, archery events, hunting guides, equestrian events, bicycle events, automobile road races, and OHV events.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Medford District manages approximately 859,096 acres of land located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos counties. Under the Northwest Forest Plan, approximately 191,000 acres (or 22 percent of the Medford District land base) are managed for timber production. The Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan provide for a sustainable timber harvest, known as the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ), from Medford District administered public lands of 57.1 MMBF (million board feet) annually.

Due to a number of legal challenges affecting Western Oregon, the district has not been required to offer its full ASQ for several years. In Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) Medford was committed to offering 47.7 MMBF, an increase of 1.7 MMBF from Fiscal Year 2004, as a step toward reaching the full ASQ. As a result of the settlement agreement in the American Forest Resources Council v. BLM lawsuit, in Fiscal Year 2005, it became necessary to offer volume in support of the ASQ from Matrix and Adaptive Management Area lands and additional volume from Late Successional Reserve (LSR) lands. To satisfy the LSR volume requirement of the settlement agreement, Medford District was given a LSR target volume of 4.6 MMBF in FY05 which was later adjusted down to 2 MMBF. The result was a combined volume offering of 49.7 MMBF for FY05.

The Medford District held five public timber sale auctions in FY05, offering a total FY05 volume of 44.5 MMBF. The volume offered in the China Keeler sale was credited to the FY04 sale volume target. Additional FY05 volume resulting from negotiated sales, stewardship contracting and modifications to ongoing sales brought the total offered volume up to 47 MMBF for the fiscal year bringing the district within 2.7 MMBF of its revised total volume target of 49.7. The District is planning to offer this shortfall volume in FY06. Typically a variety of harvest methods are employed in the Medford District including: regeneration harvest; density management; selective harvest; commercial thinning; and salvage.

Land Use Allocation	Offered FY05		Total 1995-2005 (MBF)
	MBF	CCF	
AMA	18,012	30,620	127,528
North GFMA	19,687	22,468	187,562
South GFMA	5,391	9,165	115,267
Connectivity			11,753
Misc. Volume	2,450	4,165	7663
Total Volume Offered from ASQ Lands	45,108	76,980	448,172
LSR Volume	1,507	2,562	26,685
Riparian Reserve Volume	0	0	5,392
Hardwood Volume	0	0	482
Total District Volume	47,047	79,980	481,163
District FY Target Volume	57,075	97,000	540,835

- Data shown is for all advertised “Offered” timber sales.
- Misc. volume includes timber sale modifications, special forest products sold as saw timber and stewardship contract saw log volume.

Harvest Land Base (HLB)—The following lands are available for harvest under the District RMP Land Use Allocations (LUA); General Forest Management Area (GFMA), Connectivity/Diversity Blocks, Adaptive Management Areas (AMA), and within the designated Key Watersheds which overlay the other LUAs. The harvest land base is composed of the net available acres of suitable commercial forest land on which the ASQ calculation, using the TRIM-PLUS model, is based. Volume from the harvest land base is called “chargeable volume” as it is charged towards or against (a credit) the ASQ level declared in the RMP. The GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks equate to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) Matrix land use allocation.

1) Summary of Volume Sold

Sold ASQ/Non ASQ Volume	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY 95-04	FY 05
ASQ Volume - Harvest Land Base	365.1	570.2	23.3
Non ASQ Volume - Reserves	27.9	n/a	.1
Total	393.0	n/a	23.4

Sold Unawarded (as of 09/30/05) ASQ/Non ASQ Volume	FY95-04	FY 05
ASQ Volume - Harvest Land Base	62.6	21.4
Non ASQ Volume – Reserves	2.6	0
Total	65.2	21.4

2) Volume and Acres Sold by Allocations

ASQ Volume - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY95-04	FY 05
Matrix	291.5	492.0	23.2
AMA	51.1	171.0	6.0

ASQ Acres - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY95-04	FY 05
Matrix	31,142	23,299	2,371
AMA	12,372	6,686	0

Key Watershed ASQ Volume (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY95-04	FY 05
Key Watersheds	30.5	90.0	0

3) Sales Sold by Harvest Types

ASQ Volume (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY95-04	FY 05
Regeneration Harvest	88.4	344.0	4.0
Commercial Thinning & Density Management	215.2	222.5	15.5
Other	41.7	4.3	0
Total	345.3	570.8	19.5

ASQ Acres (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-04	Decadal Projection FY95-04	FY 05
Regeneration Harvest	4,846	11,277	386
Commercial Thinning & Density Management	36,706	18,584	1,984
Other	2,505	548	0
Total	44,057	29,985	2,370

Reserve Acres	FY95-04	FY 05
Late-Successional Reserves	1,462	64
Riparian Reserves	663	0
Total	2,125	64

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS

The Medford District sold a wide variety of products under the Special Forest Products Program in FY05. These sales included mushrooms, boughs, Christmas trees, wood burls, plant transplants, edibles and medicinals, floral greenery, and wood products such as poles or fence posts.

The record of decision does not have any commitments for the sale of special forest products. The following table shows the special forest product sales for fiscal year 2005 on the Medford District.

Product	No. of Contracts	Quantity	Sold Value
Boughs-Coniferous	30	67,500 lbs	\$1,770
Burls & Miscellaneous	17	20,810 lbs	1,909
Christmas Tree Permits	0	0	0
Christmas Tree Tags	1,102	1,102	5,510
Ornamentals	0	0	0
Edibles & Medicinals	6	6,400 lbs	236
Floral & Greenery	55	57,967 lbs	1,623
Mosses-Bryophytes	1	100 lbs	10
Mushrooms-Fungi	78	3,633 lbs	2,195
Seed & Seed Cones	0	0	0
Transplants	1	20 item	10
Wood Products	564	239,889.89 cu ft	11,576
Total	1,854		\$24,839

ENERGY AND MINERALS

The Medford District has approximately 11 active mining notices and one active plan of operation. This was a decrease of four notices from 2004. The District processed five new 3809 mining actions in FY 2005. In 2005, 35 site inspections were completed. We are currently evaluating a new plan of operation. One abandoned mine environmental hazard site is continuing to be mitigated in 2005.

The District continues to use rock quarries as resources to sell mineral materials to the public and for BLM management activities. BLM use includes timber sale road surfacing and large rocks for fish weir projects and culvert replacement. Sixty-one permits were issued in FY 2005 for a total of approximately 35,000 cubic yards of rock. One mineral material trespass was initiated and a second trespass is in the Interior Board of Land Appeals. No quarries were opened or closed.

LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS

A total of 22.46 acres of BLM land was disposed of in FY05 as follows:

- Direct sale of 2.46 acres of O&C status land in Josephine County, Oregon.
- Disposal of 20 acres of public domain status land in Josephine County, Oregon, under the Color-of-Title authority (separate conveyance of minerals on the property was completed in FY05).

ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Because public and private lands are intermingled within the district boundary, each owner must cross the lands of the other in order to gain access to their lands and resources such as timber. Throughout most of the district this has been accomplished through reciprocal rights-of-way agreements with neighboring private landowners. The individual agreements and associated permits (a total of 103 on the district) are subject to the regulations which were in effect when they were executed or assigned. Additional rights-of-way have been granted for projects such as driveway construction, residence utility lines, domestic and irrigation water pipelines, and legal ingress and egress.

TRANSPORTATION/ROADS

During 2005, the District continued developing transportation management objectives, for all roads controlled by the Bureau. The process will continue through 2006. Transportation management objectives have been used to support watershed analysis and to determine candidate roads for the decommissioning process. Road inventories, watershed analyses, and individual timber sale projects identified some roads and associated drainage features that posed a risk to aquatic or other resource values. Those activities identified included:

- Surfacing dirt roads
- Replacing deteriorated culverts
- Replacing log fill culverts
- Replacing undersized culverts in perennial streams to meet 100-year flood events

Other efforts were made to reduce overall road miles by closure or elimination of roads.

The district decommissioned approximately 14 miles of road through timber sale projects. Another nine miles of road were closed by gates or barricades. Since the Resource Management Plan was initiated approximately 426 miles of roads have been closed and 176 miles have been decommissioned.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The district hazardous materials coordinator participated in a number of actions involving investigations and/or cleanup of reported hazardous waste sites, employee and public awareness training, and recycling:

- Conducted an inspection with the District Safety Manager to verify that the recommended actions of the CASHE report findings were completed or scheduled for completion.
- Completed eight environmental site assessments for easement acquisitions and land exchanges.
- Activated and administered the emergency response contract for two hazardous waste incidents and performed local removals on an additional six sites.

- Continued removal action work for the Alameda Mine with core drilling and installation of a monitoring well.
- Performed preliminary investigations and carried out appropriate actions on 20 reported hazmat incidents.
- Conducted an office cleanup day promoting waste minimization and recycling.
- Recycled 300 junk tires recovered from illegal dumps on public lands.
- Provided hazmat awareness training for new employees and wildland firefighters.



One of many abandoned vehicles which was removed from BLM lands this fiscal year. Depending on the location and condition of the vehicle, it costs between \$75 and \$400 to tow them off the public lands—money that would otherwise be spent on on-the-ground projects.



A BLM employee inspects the resource damage caused when the vehicle in the picture became stuck while trying to negotiate a wet muddy road. Another vehicle, trying to pull the first vehicle caused additional damage to the hillside. Both drivers were cited and given the choice of paying a fine plus damages or doing restoration work on the land. They chose to do the restoration work.

WILDFIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

The 2005 fire season began on June 27 and ended October 26. Wildland fire potential indicators predicted normal activity for large fires throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Southwest Oregon Fire season resulted in a normal year.

Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection and wildland fire suppression for the Medford District through a cost-reimbursable contract. For the 2005 fire season the District experienced 32 wildfires which burned a total of 3,463 acres. Of the 32 fires, 11 were lightning caused and burned 1,676 acres. Human fire starts totaled 21 and burned 1,786 acres.

Medford District's Fuels Management Program

The Medford District continues as a leader in Southwest Oregon in aggressive fuels management with the continued implementation of landscape scale projects focused on a primary goal of fire hazard reduction under the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative and The Health Forest and Restoration Act. Most acres of hazardous fuels reduction have been performed on BLM lands in the wildland-urban interface around communities at risk.

In 2005, 9,509 acres were treated with prescribed fire and 16,041 acres were treated by hand or mechanical methods. The total acres treated in 2005 (25,550) surpassed the total acres treated in 2004 (22,820). Since 1996, the year landscape scale projects began showing results, the Medford District has treated by burning or mechanical means 133,657 acres for hazardous fuels reduction and site preparation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Medford District has three full time BLM law enforcement rangers and, through a law enforcement agreement with the counties, the services of 3.5 deputy sheriffs from both Jackson and Josephine Counties. Law enforcement efforts on the Medford District for fiscal year 2005 included the following:

- Responding to and investigating natural resource crimes throughout the District
- Investigating occupancy trespass cases, mining occupancy and other trespasses
- Investigating drug and narcotic offenses (marijuana and methamphetamine)
- Investigating crimes against federal employees and federal property

Cases and incidents have resulted in 163 written warnings, 149 citations, 49 physical arrests, four fatalities, and the referral of cases to other agencies. Twenty-nine felonies and 87 misdemeanors were charged. Approximately 7,200 marijuana plants were seized and 1,000 grams of methamphetamine seized. The District had a total resource/property value loss of \$272,983. Several forest protests occurred at the district office in Medford, the Greenfield Complex in Grants Pass, and in the field.

We experienced an increase in law enforcement incidents within the Cascade/Siskiyou National Monument and The Wild and Scenic Rogue River. Incidents included illegal off road vehicle, resource damage, dumping, large drug/alcohol parties, recovered stolen vehicles, fire violations, drug production, fish and game violations, transient camps, search and rescue, and resource theft.

The Medford District Law Enforcement Office entered 1,035 incidents into the BLM LAWNET System in 2005.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Medford District rangeland program administers grazing leases for 51 livestock operators on 52 active allotments and 43 vacant allotments. These grazing allotments include approximately 352,313 acres of the Medford District's 863,095 total acres.

Grazing is one of the many uses of the public lands. The primary goal of the grazing program is to provide livestock forage while maintaining or improving upland range conditions and riparian areas. To ensure that these lands are properly managed, the Bureau conducts monitoring studies to help the manager determine if resource objectives are being met.

A portion of the grazing fees and operational funding is spent each year to maintain or complete rangeland improvement projects. These projects are designed to benefit wildlife, fisheries, and watershed resources while improving conditions for livestock grazing. The Medford District has conducted the long-running Jenny Creek Riparian Enhancement Project each year since 1988 as part of the rangeland program. These projects have resulted in numerous improvements, enhanced riparian systems and have built strong partnerships with livestock operators, friends, neighbors, and other organizations.

Livestock grazing regulations were revised in 1995 with the implementation of Rangeland Reform and are currently being revised again. Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health were completed for the states of Oregon and Washington in 1997. The fundamental characteristics of rangeland health combine physical function and biological health with elements of law relating to water quality, and plant and animal populations and communities. Assessments of rangeland health are underway and will be completed on grazing allotments over a ten year period.

Lease renewals may be completed along with Rangeland Health Assessments to more efficiently utilize staff. This strategy also reduces heavy lease renewal workloads in some years. Under existing law (Public Law 108-108, Section 325), grazing leases that expire during fiscal years 2004-2008 prior to the completion of the lease renewal process would be renewed. The existing terms and conditions of these leases will continue in effect until the lease renewal process can be completed in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

An update of the Medford District Rangeland Program Summary was completed in the year 2001 and summarizes changes which have occurred since the last update. Copies of this document are available by contacting our office. All future updates will be reported annually in this report, the Medford District Annual Program Summary.

Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments

Lease Renewals:

Grazing lease renewals require a review of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements prior to renewal for a new ten year term. Most grazing leases within the Ashland Area expire in 2006, while the majority of the Butte Falls leases expired prior to 2004. Lease renewals were completed on the following allotments in 2005:

Butte Falls Field Office:

Bear Mountain	#10037	1,059 acres
Brownsboro Park	#10016	380 acres
Bull Run	#10023	40 acres
Clear Creek	#10013	1,760 acres
Cobleigh Rd. 80	#10040	80 acres
Crowfoot	#10038	6,934 acres
Derby Road Sawmill	#10029	521 acres
Derby Station	#10030	540 acres
Kanutchen Fields	#10017	2,148 acres
Lick Creek	#10015	200 acres
Longbranch	#10004	320 acres
Lost Creek	#10001	10,130 acres
Meadows	#10007	1,719 acres
Moser Mountain	#10041	40 acres
Neil-Tarbell	#10008	529 acres
North Sams Valley	#10009	120 acres
Salt Creek	#10044	560 acres
Section 7	#10022	378 acres
Section 9	#10021	343 acres
Sugarloaf	#10019	1,340 acres
Upper Table Rock	#10012	560 acres
Vestal Butte	#10035	1,715 acres

Allotment Monitoring**Ashland Field Office:**

Within the CSNM

Collected monitoring data for the Livestock Impact Study on 7 allotments

Outside of the CSNM

Collected monitoring data on 6 allotments

Butte Falls Field Office:

Collected monitoring data on 3 allotments

Rangeland Improvements**Projects Completed:****Ashland Field Office: (includes National Public Lands Day Projects)**

Within the CSNM

Annual Maintenance on 14 Exclosures

Outside of the CSNM

Annual Maintenance on 17 Exclosures

Butte Falls Field Office:

The Alco Spring Development was completed
Annual Maintenance on 3 Exclosures

Fiscal Year 2006 Planned Work

Although there are important lease renewal workloads awaiting production, budget shortfalls in several departments in 2005 are having substantial impacts on many programs. Broad-based program reprioritization is being done to cope with budget difficulties resulting in attention focused on areas of special concern. Efforts will continue on botanical clearance surveys, Rangeland Health Assessments, Standards and Guidelines Reviews, NEPA and lease renewals planned in 2006.

Rangeland Health Assessments:

Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines Assessments continue on allotments within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) through the Livestock Impact Study. Leases within the CSNM may be renewed pending the results of this study (7 allotments).

Lease Renewals:

Butte Falls Field Office:

Summit Prairie	#10031	91,509 acres
Flat Creek	#10002	26,784 acres

Wild Horse and Burro Program: The wild horse and burro program completed 15 compliance checks to ensure proper care of adopted animals.



A BLM employee helps potential adopters fill out the paperwork and understand the requirements for wild horse adoption.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

Fiscal year 2005 was once again a very busy year for the Medford District cadastral survey organization. Cadastral survey crews completed five projects and began work on one additional project as fiscal year 2005 drew to a close. A total of 24 miles of line were surveyed or resurveyed and 24 survey monuments were established or reestablished. Medford cadastral survey utilized survey-grade global positioning systems (GPS) to establish control points on the projects that it completed, as well as using GPS to conduct surveys where practical.

Cadastral survey also responded to numerous questions and inquiries from private landowners, timber companies, private land surveyors, and district personnel regarding surveying procedures, status of ongoing surveys, and information about official plats and field notes.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Community Outreach and Action Plan

In 2005, the Medford District continued to implement the Community Outreach and Action Plan. The goal of the plan is to provide an effective public education and outreach program that demonstrates BLM's role in the management of natural resources and natural resource processes. It also provides an effective way for the public to better understand the agency's mission and programs. This program focuses on five key areas:

- Forest management
- Fire and fuels
- Off-highway vehicle use (OHV)
- Management of special areas (Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument)
- Watershed restoration

In 2005, we focused on developing a display and supplemental materials for the OHV topic area. We used the OHV display at three large events—the Sports Show, Safe Kids Day, and KTVL Kids Day. At each of these venues, the District partnered with another entity to increase the visibility of the display (our partners all brought OHVs to include with the static display). Our partners also brought knowledge of topic areas (such as OHV safety) which complimented the BLM's resource management message quite well.

Outreach Events

Employees of the Medford District participated in many outreach programs in FY 2005. Of these, the Outreach and Public Education Network (OPEN) of the district was responsible for exhibits for several events including:

- Sportsmen's Show
- Master Gardeners' Show & Sale
- Safe Kids Safety Fair

- Jackson County Fair
- KTVL Kids Day
- Josephine County Fair
- Harvest Fair

The District continued its long-standing “Nature and Nurture” column in Rogue Valley Parent Magazine. Topics this year focused on the five Outreach Action Plan themes and included articles on:

- Gifts for Birds (feeding birds in the winter),
- Scotchbroom
- Table Rock
- Family Adventures on OHVs
- McGregor Park and Visitor Center
- Safer Summer Camping
- Monumental Memories (on the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument)
- Collecting Biodiversity on Your Backyard
- Bats! Bats! Bats!
- What’s a WUI (Wildland Urban Interface)
- Don’t trash wildlife

District employees and volunteers tackled many projects during public lands day events in 2005. National Public Lands Day events included:

- Jenny Creek and Cascade-Siskiyou Monument Work Day
- Cathedral Hills Trail Maintenance

The district continued to have a strong presence in the local communities. As a Southern Oregon Community Partner, BLM employees:

- Participated in the Annual Rogue River Cleanup, Free Fishing Day, CAST Day (free fishing day for physically and mentally challenged young people)
- Led Table Rocks Nature Hikes
- Staffed McGregor Park Visitor Center near Lost Creek Lake
- Provided outdoor education talks and field trips for numerous schools throughout the region
- Continued a long running partnership with Hoover Elementary School—serving as Science Fair judges and taking kids on the annual Christmas tree cutting adventure.

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

Consultation and coordination with all levels of government have been ongoing and are a standard practice in the Medford District. On the Federal level, the District consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on matters relating to Federally listed threatened or endangered species. The District coordinates its activities with the U.S. Forest Service on matters pertaining to the Applegate AMA and also through development of interagency watershed analyses. State level consultation and coordination occurs with the State Historic Preservation Office for Section 106 compliance, and with Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. On a local level, the district consults with Native American tribal organizations, Jackson and Josephine County.

Resource Advisory Committees have been meeting and selecting projects to fund and complete. The following projects were selected and funded at the listed level:

Project Name	Project Number	County	RAC Recommend/ Approve Funding
Roadside Brushing	118-03	Curry	\$ 45,950
Glendale to Powers Rec Route	118-07	Curry	\$ 83,000
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-11	Curry	\$ 12,764
Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration	118-08	Curry	\$ 4,500
Pump Chance Maintenance	118-09	Curry	\$ 8,684
Cold Springs Rec Area Phase I	118-10	Curry	\$ 15,950
Rattlesnake Ck. Culvert Add-on	118-01	Douglas	\$ 39,068
Noxious Weed Removal	118-02	Douglas	\$ 33,500
District Native Seed Collection	110-13	Douglas	\$ 14,500
S. Douglas Co. Wildfire Water	118-19	Douglas	\$ 46,000
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-11	Douglas	\$ 14,865
Cow Ck. & W. Fork Ck. Road Restoration	118-14	Douglas	\$ 30,000
McCullough Ck. Culvert Replacement	118-15	Douglas	\$ 121,450
Cold Springs Rec Area Phase I	118-16	Douglas	\$ 15,950
Forestry Work Experience	118-17	Douglas	\$ 33,744
Noxious Weed Removal Doug Co.	118-18	Douglas	\$ 36,850
Roadside Brushing	118-54	Douglas	\$ 30,000
Roadside Brushing	115-21	Jackson	\$ 38,500
Jackson Co. Weed Control	115-05	Jackson	\$ 63,030
Jenny Creek Noxious Weed Treatment	116-30	Jackson	\$ 34,800
Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction	116-34	Jackson	\$ 291,666
Dump and Trash Clean up	116-36	Jackson	\$ 20,000
District Native Seed Collection	110-02	Jackson	\$ 18,000
Big Boulder Ck. Culvert Replacement	118-03	Jackson	\$ 132,500
BLM Road Maintenance	116-04	Jackson	\$ 77,778
Cady Jack Fuels Reduction	116-06	Jackson	\$ 231,222
Kane Ck. Road Restoration	116-07	Jackson	\$ 86,000
Stateline Fence Maintenance	116-08	Jackson	\$ 15,000
Youth to Work Program	118-09	Jackson	\$ 10,400
Water for Streams	116-41	Jackson	\$ 100,000
Little Applegate Forest Restoration	116-10	Jackson	\$ 42,000
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-51	Jackson	\$ 18,619
Wagner Ck. Fuels Reduction	116-53	Jackson	\$ 85,000
Rural Fire District # 9 Defensible Space	116-54	Jackson	\$ 48,812
Illegal Dump Patrol & Clean up	117-51	Josephine	\$ 101,808
Rogue River Noxious Weed Removal	117-60	Josephine	\$ 8,800
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-33	Josephine	\$ 14,983
Waters Creek Restoration	117-58	Josephine	\$ 26,125
Rogue River Cleanup Day	117-57	Josephine	\$ 11,000
Grants Pass Stewardship	117-52	Josephine	\$ 107,250
District Native Seed Collection	110-53	Josephine	\$ 17,500
Eight Dollar Mtn. Boardwalk	117-54	Josephine	\$ 66,000
Rat Creek Culvert	118-56	Josephine	\$ 119,350
Quedo Creek Culvert	117-59	Josephine	\$ 143,825
London Peak Trail Maint.	118-61	Josephine	\$ 6,600
Youth to Work	118-29	Josephine	\$ 10,400
Pump Chance Maintenance	118-62	Josephine	\$ 7,205
West Fk. Williams Road Decommission	117-63	Josephine	\$ 21,266
Forestry Work Experience	118-64	Josephine	\$ 33,744
Targeted Fuels Reduction for Citizens w/ special needs	117-65	Josephine	\$ 100,000
Upper East Fork. Sediment Reduction	117-66	Josephine	\$ 56,768
Spring Creek Fish Passage & Sediment Reduction	117-67	Josephine	\$ 89,573
Josephine County Water System Upgrade	117-69	Josephine	\$ 18,700
Integrated Woodland Mgmt	117-47	Josephine	\$ 22,825
Illinois Valley Noxious Weed Control	117-68	Josephine	\$ 25,850
Roadside Brushing	118-49	Josephine	\$ 47,520

PLANNING AND NEPA DOCUMENTS

Plan Maintenance

The Medford District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) was approved in April 1995. Since then, the district has implemented the plan across the entire spectrum of resources and land use allocations. During the life of a plan, both minor changes or refinements and possibly major changes brought about by new information or policy may occur. The plan establishes mechanisms to respond to these situations. Maintenance actions respond to minor data changes and incorporation of activity plans. This maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Plan maintenance will not result in expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved resource management plan. Maintenance actions are not considered a plan amendment and do not require the formal public involvement and interagency coordination process undertaken for plan amendments.

Previous plan maintenance has been published in past Medford District Annual Program Summaries. The following additional items have been implemented on the Medford District as part of the plan maintenance during fiscal year 2005. These plan maintenance items represent minor changes, refinements or clarifications that do not result in the expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved resource management plan.

Plan Maintenance for Fiscal Year 2005

In the Medford RMP Record of Decision, numbers of acres were estimated for planned activities in the plan. Fire management activities, which includes prescribed burning, restoration underburning, hazardous fuels burning, and site preparation burning was estimated to be 2,400 acres annually. The Medford District to date has burned and treated approximately 41,285 acres exceeding the nine year estimate of 21,600 acres. Since 1995 the district has been fortunate enough to be the recipient of increasing fire management budgets, primarily for hazardous fuels reduction, and, with the help of local private landowners, has been able to accomplish more than originally estimated in 1995. Estimates of acres to be treated in 1995 were conservative and, due to the increased appropriated dollars, more acres have been successfully treated for fire management in rural interface areas.

While recognizing the treatment of more acres than originally estimated, the original objectives and management directions of the Medford District RMP have still been met. The following are the RMP objectives for fire management.

- Provide appropriate wildfire suppression response that will help meet resource management objectives.
- Use prescribed fire to meet resources management objectives. This will include, but not be limited to, fuels management for wildfire hazard reduction, restoration of desired vegetation conditions, management of habitat, and silvicultural treatments.
- Adhere to smoke management and air quality standards of the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan for prescribed burning.

MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

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MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Introduction

This document represents the tenth monitoring report of the Medford District Resource Management Plan for which the Record of Decision was signed in April 1995. This monitoring report compiles the results of implementation monitoring of the tenth year of implementation of the Resource Management Plan. Included in this report are the projects that took place from October 2004 through September 2005. Effectiveness and validation monitoring will be conducted in subsequent years when projects mature or proceed long enough for the questions asked under these categories of monitoring to be answered.

Background

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-9) call for the monitoring and evaluation of resource management plans at appropriate intervals.

Monitoring is an essential component of natural resource management because it provides information on the relative success of management strategies. The implementation of the RMP is being monitored to ensure that management actions:

- follow prescribed management direction (implementation monitoring),
- meet desired objectives (effectiveness monitoring) and
- are based on accurate assumptions (validation monitoring) (see Appendix L, Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan).

Some effectiveness monitoring and most validation monitoring will be accomplished by formal research. The nature of the questions concerning effectiveness monitoring require some maturation of implemented projects in order to discern results. This and validation monitoring will be conducted as appropriate in subsequent years.

Monitoring Overview

This monitoring report focuses on the implementation questions contained in the Resource Management Plan. Questions were separated into two lists, those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary, such as accomplishment reports. (A copy of both lists are included in appendix B.) The monitoring plan for the Resource Management Plan incorporates the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan.

Monitoring at multiple levels and scales along with coordination with other BLM and Forest Service units has been initiated through the Regional Interagency Executive Council (RIEC). At the request of the RIEC, the Regional Ecosystem Office started a regional-scale implementation monitoring program. This province-level monitoring was completed for the tenth year.

Monitoring Results and Findings

Implementation monitoring was based on a process developed by the Medford District Research and Monitoring Committee. The basis was Appendix L of the RMP/ROD. Questions were separated into two lists, those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary or completed reports (copies of the questions are included in Appendix B). Projects were randomly selected for monitoring for the period from October 2004 to September 2005.

The following process was used for selecting individual projects to meet the RMP ROD implementation monitoring standards:

The list of projects occurring in FY 2005 were based on the following stratification:

- All advertised timber sales
- All silvicultural projects
- Riparian Restoration Projects
- Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects
- Fuel Reduction Projects
- Road Restoration Projects
- Miscellaneous Projects

A random number was selected, with every fifth project from the list selected to be monitored. (The monitoring plan in the ROD required 20 percent of projects within each area to be monitored.)

The NEPA documents, watershed analysis files and the Late-Successional Reserve Assessments applicable to each of the selected projects were reviewed and compared to answer the first part of the implementation monitoring question: "Were the projects prepared in accord with the underlying ROD requirements, NEPA and/or watershed analysis documentation, and/or Late Successional Reserve Assessment documentation?"

A summary of the district monitoring follows.

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects for FY 2005					
Project Type	# Ashland RA	# Butte Falls RA	# Glendale RA	# Grants Pass RA	Total # District
Timber Sales	4	2	1	2	9
Silviculture Projects	3	4	2	1	10
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	2	0	2	4
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	1	1	2
Prescribed Burns	7	4	0	14	25
Road Restoration	0	0	1	0	1
Other Projects	7	33	5	19	64

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects Selected for Monitoring for FY 2005					
Project Type	# Ashland RA	# Butte Falls RA	# Glendale RA	# Grants Pass RA	Total # District
Timber Sales	1	1	0	0	2
Silviculture Projects	1	1	0	0	2
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	0	0	1	1
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	1	1	2
Prescribed Burns	1	1	0	3	5
Road Restoration	0	0	0	0	0
Other Projects	1	7	1	4	13

Note: See Appendix A for all projects considered and projects selected for monitoring.

Projects were selected for monitoring based on the guidelines contained in Appendix L of the RMP/ROD.

The Medford District started or completed 115 projects from October 2004 through September 2005. These projects included timber sales, small salvage sales, road rights-of-way, collection of special forest products and trail construction. The projects were sorted into the following categories:

Timber Sales	Riparian Projects
Silvicultural Projects	Fish Habitat work
Wildlife Habitat	Prescribed Burns
Road Restorations	Other

Projects that required environmental assessments or categorical exclusions were randomly selected for office and field review. Appendix L generally requires a 20 percent sample to be evaluated.

For each project selected, we answered the project-specific questions included in Appendix B. Questions of a general nature (Appendix B, second list of questions) are addressed in the specific program articles found in the beginning of this document.

The Medford District is separated into four resource areas. Projects were selected from all resource areas and answers to the monitoring questions for the individual actions based on a review of the files and NEPA documentation. Some questions asked for information that required field review of projects before they were started and other questions required information gathered after projects were completed. Necessary monitoring field trips were conducted over the entire Medford District.

Findings

The Medford District found a high level of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) contained in the Medford Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan. The results of our tenth year of monitoring evaluation continues to support our earlier observations that, overall, the District is doing a good job of implementing the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District RMP. The District has planned and executed many ecologically sound management and restoration projects.

Field review of the timber sales and projects indicated that the intent and requirements for the S&Gs have been met for the sampled and completed projects.

Projects received field visits so that the selected monitoring questions could be answered or required pre-harvest measurements taken. The projects were reviewed in the field for the different factors listed below.

Special Attention Species	Riparian Reserves	Snag Retention
Coarse Woody Debris	Wildlife Habitat	Special Status Species
Fish Habitat	Structures in Riparian Reserves	Special Areas

Riparian reserves were measured and found to have the correct size buffers for the different types of streams. All projects were found to be in full compliance with the S&Gs from the record of decision. The project results and information on the monitoring process is available at the Medford District Office. As a result of observed very high compliance with management action/direction in the past ten years, no implementation or management adjustments are recommended.

A portion of the questions asked in the monitoring appendix concern projects that have not been completed and which deal with pretreatment conditions. Measurements of riparian reserves, surveys of green tree and snag retention, coarse woody debris levels, and special attention species were completed on projects and will be reviewed again when the project has been completed. Some projects may take up to three years to be completed.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. MONITORING

Projects subjected to sampling:

Timber Sales

West Fork Illinois
China Keeler
Willy Slide
Bald Lick
Plateau Thin Stew

Slick Sand
Camp Cur
South Deer
Deadmans Palm

Silvicultural Projects

Conifer Pruning
PCT / Brushing LSR
PCT Release in LSR
Middle Rogue WS Council Tree Planting
Tree Planting/Maintenance

Conifer Limb Pruning
PCT / Brushing Matrix
PCT (Young Stand Mgmt) LSR, Matrix, RR
PCT & Release Brushing
Plantation Thin (PCT)

Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

India Creek Culvert Replacement
2005 Culvert Replacement

Ditch Creek Irrigation Project
Waters Creek Fish Habitat Restoration

Roads and Construction

Roller Coaster Road Improvement

Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects

Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration

Ferry Park Bird Banding

Prescribed Burn Projects

Holcomb Springs Hazard Reduction
Fuel Hazard Reduction, Rural Residential
Midway Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Bruce Hart—Home Site Fuel Reduction
Bowhill Hazardous Fuel Reduction
Pinnon Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Robertson Bridge West Neighborhood

Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction
Battle Mtn. Hazard Reduction
Fuel Hazard Red—Urban Interface—C. Junction
Wildland Urban Interface—Selma
Stehnike—Home Site Fuel Reduction
Paradise—Greentree Neighborhood Plan
Robertson Bridge East Neighborhood

North Galice Neighborhood
Central Galice Neighborhood
Little Applegate Fuels Reduction
Howard Hyatt 2—Fuels
Squire's Burn Fuels

Cyril Hunker—Home Site Fuel Reduction
Forest Creek Fuels Reduction
Cady Jack Fuels
Hukill Hollow Road—Fuels
Jackson Creek 25, 35B Fuels

Other

Gopher Trapping
R/W Grant—McElroy
R/W Grant 61098 PPL
Salt Creek Burls
R/W Grant OR 60089 PPL
R/W Hammond OR 61185
Cold Springs Field School
4 Pine Salvage
Communication Site—Meriwether
Summit Snag Salvage
Major Hazard
OR 46200 Old Ferry Road
Silver Butte R/W Outfitters Inc.
R/W 48922
Wasson Fire ES & R Treatments
Jackass Ck & Beaver Dam Enclosure
Alco Spring Development
Maple Creek ROW
Cummins ROW
Rogue River Rec Site Project
Rand Admin Site Well Project
French Flat ACEC Access
PacifCorp Power Line ROW
Barlow Rock Mineral Permit
Dunavin Road ROW
Cross Quest Adventure Race
Wiltermood ROW
Rand Boat Ramp Hazard Tree Removal
Deer Creek ESR
Callahan Waterwheel
Bostwick ROW
Sundance Society

R/W Grant—Mathews
Hwy 227 Blowdown
Morrison Creek Burls
Crowfoot Burls
R/W Grant OR 61156 PPL
R/W Kinyon OR 61184
R/W Grady Pacific Corp ORE 3571
County Pine Salvage
R/W OR 49600 Kaiser—Naillon
OR 61461 PPL Reauthorization
Terrarium Pole Thin
OR 25873 Schorran R/W
Murphy Gulch Mine Closure
Lyons Hazard Trees
Table Rock Accessible Trail
Nelson R/W Grant
Cold Springs Archaeological Dig
Turnberg ROW
Blossom Rehabilitation
Colburn - Vanlandingham Spring ROW
TLK Investment—ROW
Jo. Co. Road Use Permit
Vern Laugsand Mineral Permit
Larry Smith Rock Haul
John Thompson Road ROW
Simpronio Road ROW
Evansen Federal Mineral Conveyance
FAA Sexton ROW
Jacksonville Woodlands Trails
Powell ROW (water)
Sager—Shale City ROW
Cornflower Collection

FY 2005 Sampled Project List (by category)

Timber Sales

Slick Sand

China Keeler

Silvicultural Projects

PCT / Brushing LSR

PCT & Release Brushing

Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction

Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects

Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration

Prescribed Burn Projects

Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction
Pinnon Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Howard Hyatt 2—Fuels

Bruce Hart—Home Site Fuel Reduction
Cyril Hunkler—Home Site Fuel Reduction

Other

Gopher Trapping
R/W Hammond OR 61185
Major Hazard
Jackass Ck. & Beaver Dam Enclosure
Rand Admin Site Well Project
Cross Quest Expeditions Adventure Race
Bostwick ROW

Morrison Creek Burls
County Pine Salvage
Murphy Gulch Mine Closure
Turnberg ROW
Vern Laugsand Mineral Mine Permit
FAA Sexton ROW

APPENDIX B

Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2005

The following two lists of questions have been used to record the Medford District Implementation Monitoring question results for FY 04. The first list, 2005 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, have been used for specific projects for monitoring.

The second list, APS Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, have been addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

Medford District 2005 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

Listed below are the Implementation Monitoring Requirements and Questions as described in Appendix L of the Medford District ROD for the RMP.

All Land Use Allocations

Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

Protection of SEIS special attention species so as not to elevate their status to any higher level of concern.

Implementation Monitoring

1. Are surveys for the species listed in Appendix C conducted before ground-disturbing activities occur?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Slick Sand, China Keeler, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous, Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2 Fuels, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel Reduction, Gopher Trapping, Hammond ROW, Jackass Ck. Enclosure, Rand Admin. Well Site, Bostwick ROW, Morrison Burls, County Pine Salvage, Murphy Gulch Mine Closure, Turnberg ROW, Laugsand Mine Permit, FAA Sexton ROW.

2. Are protection buffers being provided for specific rare and locally endemic species and other species in habitats identified in the upland forest matrix?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Slick Sand, China Keeler, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous, Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2 Fuels, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel

Reduction, Gopher Trapping, Hammond ROW, Jackass Ck. Enclosure, Rand Admin. Well Site, Bostwick ROW, Morrison Burls, County Pine Salvage, Murphy Gulch Mine Closure, Turnberg ROW, Laugsand Mine Permit, FAA Sexton ROW.

3. Are the sites of amphibians, mammals, bryophytes, mollusks, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and arthropod species listed in Appendix C being protected?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Slick Sand, China Keeler, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction, Anatumuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous, Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2 Fuels, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel Reduction, Gopher Trapping, Hammond ROW, Jackass Ck. Enclosure, Rand Admin. Well Site, Bostwick ROW, Morrison Burls, County Pine Salvage, Murphy Gulch Mine Closure, Turnberg ROW, Laugsand Mine Permit, FAA Sexton ROW.

Riparian Reserves

Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

See Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

Implementation Monitoring

7. Are watershed analyses being completed before on-the-ground actions are initiated in Riparian Reserves?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, lists of watershed analyses completed by the end of FY 2004 are located in resource area files. Applicable watershed analyses were used as a basis for project environmental analysis.

8. Is the width and integrity of the Riparian Reserves being maintained?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, the Riparian Reserve widths have been based on the established guidelines. Project sampled: Slick Sand and China Keeler.

Riparian Width (150 & 175')	#1 = 154'
	#2 = 201'
	#3 = 187'
	#4 = 191'

Riparian Width (300 & 350')	#5 = 312'
	#6 = 343'
	#7 = 387'
	#8 = 380'

- 10A. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled: 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction and Jackass Creek & Beaver Dam Enclosure.

- 10B. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with RMP management direction?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction and Jackass Creek & Beaver Dam Enclosure.

- 10C. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction and Jackass Creek & Beaver Dam Enclosure.

11. Are new structures and improvements in Riparian Reserves constructed to minimize the diversion of natural hydrologic flow paths, reduce the amount of sediment delivery into the stream, protect fish and wildlife populations, and accommodate the 100-year flood?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes.

12. A) Are all mining structures, support facilities, and roads located outside the riparian reserves?
B) Are those located within the riparian reserves meeting the objectives of the aquatic conservation strategy? C) Are all solid and sanitary waste facilities excluded from riparian reserves or located, monitored, and reclaimed in accordance with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—N/A

Matrix

19. Are suitable numbers of snags, coarse woody debris, and green trees being left following timber harvest as called for in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

One timber sale (China Keeler) reviewed had no regeneration harvests in it. The Slick Sand project has not been sold yet) In the timber sale units that had prescriptions for partial cutting such as thinning, numerous green trees and coarse woody debris is available.

20. Are timber sales being designed to meet ecosystem goals for the Matrix?

Yes, all timber sales are designed to meet ecosystem goals for the Matrix. All resources are analyzed for impacts including; wildlife, soils, hydrology, plants, social, cultural, as well as others.

21. Are late-successional stands being retained in fifth-field watersheds in which federal forest lands have 15 percent or less late-successional forest?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—No regeneration harvests were planned in any watersheds that had 15% or less late-successional forest in them. RMP objectives were met.

Air Quality

23. Were efforts made to minimize the amount of particulate emissions from prescribed burns?

Prescribed burns were all in the form of burn piles rather than broadcast burning. Not all of the piled material has been burned. The piles that have been burned were done so in prescription and according to their individual burn plans when prescribed conditions were available. Overall particulate emissions can be minimized from prescribed burning through ignition timing, aggressive mop-up, and the reduction of large heavy fuels consumed by fire.

24. Are dust abatement measures used during construction activities and on roads during BLM timber harvest operations and other BLM commodity hauling activities?

The timber sales contain abatement specifications as part of the contract. Water is required to abate dust during the construction phase of the contract.

Soil and Water

26. Are site-specific Best Management Practices identified as applicable during interdisciplinary review carried forward into project design and execution?

China Keeler and Slick Sand Timber Sales were the timber sales selected but have not been completed yet. Best management practices were examined based on contract specifications. Skid trail locations are to be approved ahead of time, the maximum area for skid trails is to be less than 12% of the area, existing skid roads are to be used when available, tractor yarding will be limited seasonally.

- 27B. Are watershed analyses being performed prior to management activities in key watersheds?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, lists of watershed analyses completed by the end of FY 2005 are located in resource area files. Applicable watershed analyses were used as a basis for project environmental analysis.

Wildlife Habitat

38. Are suitable (diameter, length and numbers) of snags, coarse woody debris, and green trees being left in a manner that meets the needs of species and provides for ecological functions in harvested areas as called for in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

Yes. Except for one timber sale (Slick Sand) the sale reviewed had no regeneration harvest in them. In the timber sale units that had prescriptions for partial cutting such as thinning, numerous green trees and coarse woody debris are available. The Slick Sand timber sale has regeneration units in it but has not been cut yet. Adequate numbers of snags and coarse woody debris will be retained.

39. Are special habitats being identified and protected?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled: China Keeler, Slick Sand, PCT Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sedimentation Reduction, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Gopher Trapping, Jackass Ck. & Beaver Dam Enclosure. Seasonal restrictions are in place for spotted owl habitat and buffers on riparian reserves and for special status plants have been put in place.

Fish Habitat

42. Are at-risk fish species and stocks being identified?

The China Keeler and Slick Sand timber sales have identified at-risk fish species and have designed features to avoid adverse impacts to them.

44. Are potential adverse impacts to fish habitat and fish stocks being identified?

Yes. The China Keeler and Slick Sand timber sales have identified at-risk fish species and have designed features to avoid adverse impacts to them.

Special Status Species and SEIS Special Attention Species and Habitat

46. Are special status species being addressed in deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions? During forest management and other actions that may disturb special status species, are steps taken to adequately mitigate disturbances?

The Medford District has consulted with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on various management projects. All major ground disturbing activities involve discussion with USFWS concerning special status species. This may consist of a verbal discussion, or range up to and include a formal biological assessment. Projects reviewed were the following: China Keeler, Slick Sand, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel Reduction, County Pine Salvage, and Gopher trapping.

47. Are the actions identified in plans to recover species and the requirements and recommendations in the biological opinion being implemented in a timely manner?

Recovery Plans are met or exceeded.

Special Areas

- 53A. Are BLM actions and BLM authorized actions/uses near or within special areas consistent with RMP objectives and management direction for special areas?

N/A

- 53B. If mitigation was required, was it incorporated in the authorization document?

No mitigation was required, projects were not close to any special areas.

- 53C. If mitigation was required, was it carried out as planned?

No mitigation required.

Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

- 60A. Are cultural resources being addressed in deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions?

Cultural surveys were completed. Yes.

- 60B. During forest management and other actions that may disturb cultural resources, are steps taken to adequately mitigate?

No mitigation required.

Visual Resources

64. Are visual resource design features and mitigation methods being followed during timber sales and other substantial actions in Class II and III areas?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: China Keeler and Slick Sand.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

65. Are BLM actions and BLM authorized actions consistent with protection of the ORVs of designated, suitable, and eligible, but not studied, rivers?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—N/A

Rural Interface Areas

67. Are design features and mitigation measures developed and implemented to avoid/minimize impacts to health, life, property, and quality of life and to minimize the possibility of conflicts between private and federal land management?

Projects sampled: Yes; Slick Sand, China Keeler, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous, Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2 Fuels, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel Reduction, Gopher Trapping, Hammond ROW, Jackass Ck. Enclosure, Rand Admin. Well Site, Bostwick ROW, Morrison Burls, County Pine Salvage, Murphy Gulch Mine Closure, Turnberg ROW, Laugsand Mine Permit, FAA Sexton ROW.

Noxious Weeds

76. Are noxious weed control methods compatible with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Yes; Slick Sand, China Keeler, PCT/Brushing, PCT & Release Brushing, 2005 Culvert Replacement & Sediment Reduction, Anatuvuk Meadow Restoration, Upper Meadows Hazard Reduction, Pinnon Hazardous, Fuels Reduction, Howard Hyatt 2 Fuels, Hart Home Site Fuel Reduction, Hunkler Home Site Fuel Reduction, Gopher Trapping, Hammond ROW, Jackass Ck. Enclosure, Rand Admin. Well Site, Bostwick ROW, Morrison Burls, County Pine Salvage, Murphy Gulch Mine Closure, Turnberg ROW, Laugsand Mine Permit, FAA Sexton ROW.

Medford District

APS Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

This list of questions is addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

All Land Use Allocations

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 225)

4. Are the sites of amphibians, mammals, bryophytes, mollusks, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and arthropod species listed in Appendix C being surveyed as directed in the SEIS ROD?
5. Are high priority sites for species management being identified?
6. Are general regional surveys being conducted to acquire additional information and to determine necessary levels of protection for arthropods and fungi species that were not classed as rare and endemic, bryophytes, and lichens?

Riparian Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 226)

- 9A. What silvicultural practices are being applied to control stocking, re-establish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 9B. Are management actions creating a situation where riparian reserves are made more susceptible to fire?
- 13A. Are new recreation facilities within the Riparian Reserves designed to meet, and where practicable, contribute to Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 13B. Are mitigation measures initiated where existing recreation facilities are not meeting Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Late Successional Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 228)

- 14. What is the status of the preparation of assessments and fire plans for Late-Successional Reserves?
- 15A. What activities were conducted or authorized within Late Successional Reserves and how were they compatible with the objectives of the Late Successional Reserve Assessment?
- 15B. Were the activities consistent with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines, with RMP management direction, and Regional Ecosystem Office review requirements, and the Late-Successional Reserve assessment?
- 16. What is the status of development and implementation of plans to eliminate or control non-native species which adversely impact late-successional objectives?
- 17. What land acquisitions occurred, or are under way, to improve the area, distribution, and quality of late-successional reserves?

Adaptive Management Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 229)

- 18A. Are the adaptive management area (AMA) plans being developed?
- 18B. Do the AMA plans establish future desired conditions?

Matrix

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 230)

22. What is the age and type of the harvested stands?

Air Quality

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 231)

- 25A. Are conformity determinations being prepared prior to activities which may: contribute to a new violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation, or delay the timely attainment of a standard?
- 25B. Has an interagency monitoring grid been established in southwestern Oregon?

Soil and Water

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 232)

- 27A. What watershed analyses have been or are being performed?
28. In watersheds where municipal providers have agreements, have the agreements been checked to determine if the terms and conditions have been met?
29. What is the status of identification of instream flow needs for the maintenance of channel conditions, aquatic habitat, and riparian resources?
30. What watershed restoration projects are being developed and implemented?
31. What fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies have been developed to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
32. What is the status of development of road or transportation management plans to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
33. What is the status of preparation of criteria and standards which govern the operation, maintenance, and design for the construction and reconstruction of roads?
- 34A. What is the status of the reconstruction of roads and associated drainage features identified in watershed analysis as posing a substantial risk?
- 34B. What is the status of closure or elimination of roads to further Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives and to reduce the overall road mileage within Key Watersheds?
- 34C. If funding is insufficient to implement road mileage reductions, are construction and authorizations through discretionary permits denied to prevent a net increase in road mileage in Key Watersheds?

- 35. What is the status of reviews of ongoing research in Key Watersheds to ensure that significant risk to the watershed does not exist?
- 36A. What is the status of evaluation of recreation, interpretive, and user-enhancement activities/facilities to determine their effects on the watershed?
- 36B. What is the status of eliminating or relocating these activities/facilities when found to be in conflict with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 37A. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies in the development of watershed-based Research Management Plans and other cooperative agreements to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 37B. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies to identify and eliminate wild ungulate impacts which are inconsistent with attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Wildlife Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 234)

- 40. What is the status of designing and implementing wildlife habitat restoration projects?
- 41. What is the status of designing and constructing wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities?

Fish Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 235)

- 42. Are at-risk fish species and stocks being identified?
- 43. Are fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities being designed and implemented which contribute to attainment of aquatic conservation strategy objectives?
- 44. Are potential adverse impacts to fish habitat and fish stocks being identified?

Special Status Species and SEIS Special Attention Species and Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 236)

- 48. What coordination with other agencies has occurred in the management of special status species?
- 49. What land acquisitions occurred or are underway to facilitate the management and recovery of special status species?
- 50. What site-specific plans for the recovery of special status species were, or are being, developed?

- 51. What is the status of analysis which ascertains species requirements or enhances the recovery or survival of a species?
- 52. What is the status of efforts to maintain or restore the community structure, species composition, and ecological processes of special status plant and animal habitat?

Special Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 238)

- 54. What is the status of the preparation, revision, and implementation of ACEC management plans?
- 55A. Are interpretive programs and recreation uses being developed and encouraged in ONAs?
- 55B. Are the outstanding values of the ONAs being protected from damage?
- 56. What environmental education and research initiatives and programs are occurring in the RNAs and EEAs?
- 57. Are existing BLM actions and BLM authorized actions and uses not consistent with management direction for special areas being eliminated or relocated?
- 58A. Are actions being identified which are needed to maintain or restore the important values of the special areas?
- 58B. Are the actions being implemented?
- 59. Are protection buffers being provided for specific rare and locally endemic species and other species in habitats identified in the SEIS ROD?

Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 239)

- 61. What mechanisms have been developed to describe past landscapes and the role of humans in shaping those landscapes?
- 62. What efforts are being made to work with American Indian groups to accomplish cultural resource objectives and achieve goals outlined in existing memoranda of understanding and to develop additional memoranda as needs arise?
- 63. What public education and interpretive programs were developed to promote the appreciation of cultural resources?

Wild and Scenic Rivers

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 241)

- 66A. Are existing plans being revised to conform to aquatic conservation strategy objectives?
- 66B. Are revised plans being implemented?

Socioeconomic Conditions

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 243)

- 68. What strategies and programs have been developed, through coordination with state and local governments, to support local economies and enhance local communities?
- 69. Are RMP implementation strategies being identified that support local economies?
- 70. What is the status of planning and developing amenities (such as recreation and wildlife viewing facilities) that enhance local communities?

Recreation

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 244)

- 71. What is the status of the development and implementation of recreation plans?

Timber Resources

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 245)

- 72. By land-use allocation, how do timber sale volumes, harvested acres, and the age and type of regeneration harvest stands compare to the projections in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management objectives?
- 73. Were the silvicultural (e.g., planting with genetically selected stock, fertilization, release, and thinning) and forest health practices anticipated in the calculation of the expected sale quantity implemented?

Special Forest Products

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 246)

- 74. Is the sustainability and protection of special forest product resources ensured prior to selling special forest products?
- 75. What is the status of the development and implementation of specific guidelines for the management of individual special forest products?

Fire/Fuels Management

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 247)

77. What is the status of the preparation and implementation of fire management plans for Late-Successional Reserves and Adaptive Management Areas?
78. Have additional analysis and planning been completed to allow some natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions?
79. Do wildfire suppression plans emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat?
80. Have fire management plans been completed for all at risk late successional areas?
81. What is the status of the interdisciplinary team preparation and implementation of regional fire management plans which include fuel hazard reduction plans?

The top of Pilot Peak in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, floats above a cloud layer.



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF ONGOING PLANS AND ANALYSES

Western Oregon Plan Revision

In August 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, signed a Settlement Agreement which settles litigation with the American Forest Resource Council, and the Association of O&C Counties, hereafter referred to as the Settlement Agreement (AFRC v. Clarke, Civil No. 94-1031-TPJ (D.D.C.)). Among other items in the Settlement Agreement, the BLM is required to revise the six existing Resource Management Plans in Western Oregon by December 2008, consistent with the O&C Act as interpreted by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Under the Settlement Agreement, the BLM is required to consider an alternative in the land use plan revisions which will not create any reserves on O&C lands, except as required to avoid jeopardy under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or meet other legal obligations. In FY 2004, the BLM in Western Oregon began making preparations in order to comply with Resource Management Plan revision section of the Settlement Agreement. In 2005, the BLM began the large and long task of revising the Western Oregon land use plans. Public scoping meetings were attended in the summer and fall, and many comments were received on what was important and how alternatives should be assembled. Alternatives are being created and public feedback has been received. A draft plan is expected to be completed in March of 2007.

Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan

This management plan has been in the works since President Clinton made the area a National Monument. The Final Plan/EIS was completed and made available to the public in the spring of 2005. A Record of Decision will be completed and available this summer of 2006.

Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Plan

Numerous public meetings have been held on this Management Plan during the scoping process. The scoping process seeks ideas, issues and comments from the public to be able to capture all the concerns that may exist. We expect to complete to complete the draft plan in the fall/winter of 2006.

APPENDIX D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMA	Adaptive Management Area
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CBWR	Coos Bay Wagon Road
CCF	Hundred cubic feet
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
EEA	Environmental Education Area
FY	Fiscal Year
GCDB	Geographic Coordinates Data Base
GFMA	General Forest Management Area
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
LSF	Late Successional Forest
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve
MBF	Thousand board feet
MMBF	Million board feet
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	Northwest Forest Plan
O&C	Oregon and California Revested Lands
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSU	Oregon State University
PD	Public Domain Lands
PILT	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
PL	Public Law
REO	Regional Ecosystem Office
RIEC	Regional Interagency Executive Committee
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMP/ROD	The Medford District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
SA	Special Attention Species
S&G	Standards and Guidelines
SS	Special Status Species
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
WOPR	Western Oregon Plan Revision

APPENDIX E. DEFINITIONS

Adaptive Management Area (AMA)—the Medford District’s Applegate AMA is managed to restore and maintain late-successional forest habitat while developing and testing management approaches to achieve the desired economic and other social objectives.

anadromous fish—Fish that are born and reared in fresh water, move to the ocean to grow and mature, and return to fresh water to reproduce, e.g., salmon, steelhead and shad.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)—An area of BLM administered lands where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and provide safety from natural hazards.

candidate species—Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

fifth field watershed—A watershed size designation of approximately 20-200 square miles in size.

fiscal year—The federal financial year. It is a period of time from October 1 of one year to September 31 of the following year.

hazardous materials—Anything that poses a substantive present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed.

iteration—Something said or performed again; repeated.

late successional reserve—A forest in its mature and/or old-growth stages that has been reserved

lay down fence—A fence capable of being put down in winter to allow less damage from winter weather.

matrix land—Federal land outside of reserves and special management areas which will be available for timber harvest at varying levels.

noxious plant/weed—A plant specified by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome, and difficult to control.

precommercial thinning—the practice of removing some of the trees less than merchantable size from a stand so that remaining trees will grow faster.

prescribed fire—a fire burning under specified conditions that will accomplish certain planned objectives.

refugia—Locations and habitats that support populations of organisms that are limited to small fragments of their previous geographic ranges.

Regional Interagency Executive Council—A senior regional interagency entity which assures the prompt, coordinated, successful implementation at the regional level of the forest management plan standards and guidelines .

research natural area—an area that contains natural resource values of scientific interest and is managed primarily for research and educational purposes.

Resource Management Plan—a land use plan prepared by the BLM under current regulations in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

riparian reserves—Designated riparian areas found outside late successional reserves.

SEIS Special Attention Species—a term which incorporates the “Survey and Manage” and “Protection Buffer” species from the Northwest Forest Plan.

silvicultural prescription—a detailed plan , usually written by a forest silviculturist, for controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forest stands.

site index—A measure of forest productivity expressed as the height of the tallest trees in a stand at an index age.

site preparation—any action taken in conjunction with a reforestation effort (natural or artificial) to create an environment that is favorable for survival of suitable trees during the first growing season. This environment can be created by altering ground cover, soil or microsite conditions, using biological, mechanical, or manual clearing, prescribed burns, herbicides or a combination of methods.

Special Status Species—plant or animal species in any of the following categories

- Threatened or Endangered Species
- Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species
- Candidate Species
- State-listed Species
- Bureau Sensitive Species
- Bureau Assessment Species

stream mile—A linear mile of stream.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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